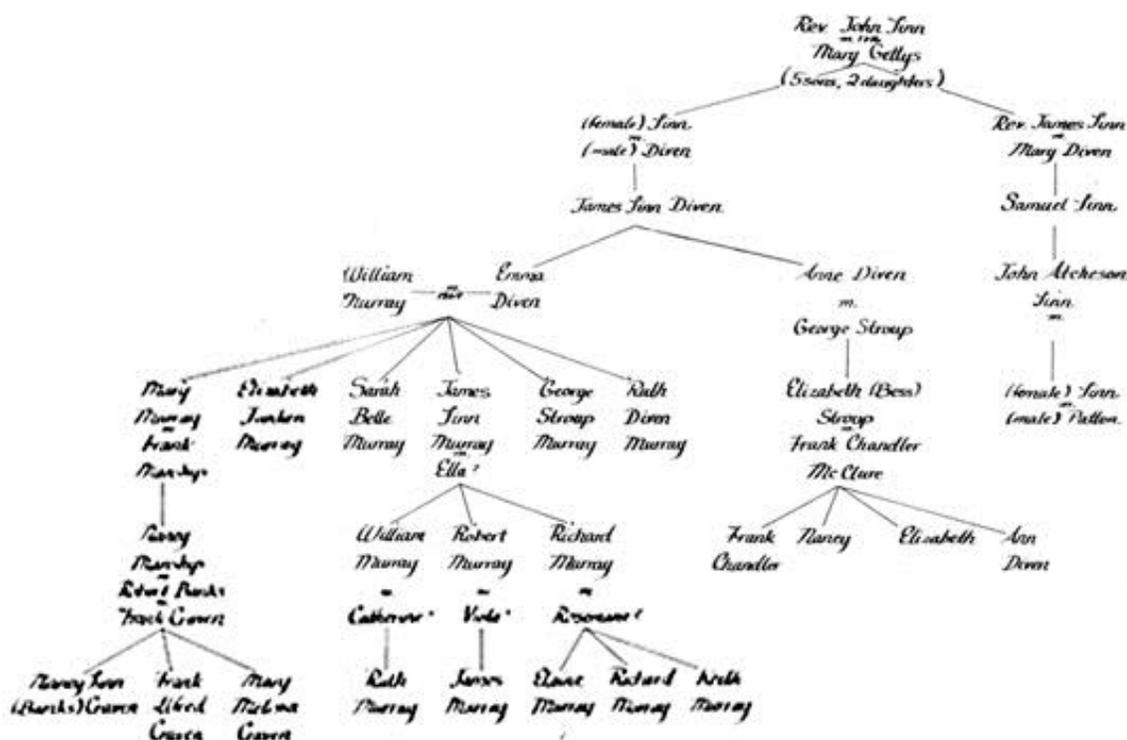


*The Ancestry of Frank T. Craven
and Nancy Manship Craven
From Craven, Brook, Kitching, Gough,
Manship, Kirkham, Durden, Murray, Diven, Linn,
Junkin, Gettys, and Ramsey Surname Lines*

The Divens

This is only one chapter of the author's family history. Please see also <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) where you can link into chapters about other lines in this family, access descendant reports, and read the Forward, which explains the premises and format of all of these "chapters".

As well as our Ancestry.com tree (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/113195954/family>), you will find an **exhaustive** "Descendants of ..." documents, generated by Family Tree Maker software using the same tree database, on our website. This contains all the descendants we have been able to track through public records but which this document cannot begin to address.



Hand-drawn tree of the Linn, Gettys, and Diven lines of the family, as understood in 1977, long before this research was begun. (calligraphy by Melissa Craven, 1977).

Note: the James Linn / Mary Diven / Samuel Linn / Patton line shown here is incorrect!

Diven Name Meaning

Irish: variant of Devine. ¹

Devine English and French: nickname, of literal or ironic application, from Middle English, Old French devin, divin 'excellent', 'perfect' (Latin divinus 'divine').

Devine Irish: reduced Anglicized form of either of two Gaelic names, Ó Duibhín 'descendant of Duibhín', a by name meaning 'little black one', or Ó Daimhín 'descendant of Daimhín', a byname meaning 'fawn', 'little stag'. These are attenuated versions of Ó Dubháin and Ó Damháin, and are the phonetic origin of Anglicizations with an internal v (as opposed to w, as in Dewan, or monosyllabic forms with an o or u). ²

The 1977 chart above does not provide much information about the Divens' family lineage. Today, we know for certain that Alexander Diven (b. 1715 Ireland – aft 1760 Perry Co.) came to America and settled in what is now Perry Co, PA.

In 2014, we discovered the Family Tree DNA project for the Devines ³, which includes one DNA contributor with the surname Diven and whose oldest known ancestor is the same as ours, Alexander Diven of PA (here by 1755) ⁴. We contacted the project and were told that this contributor's DNA clustered strongly with those of men named Devine, Devin, Davins, etc. and that their "native Irish" roots were in Tirkennedy ⁵, Fermanagh ⁶ (Northern Ireland). Our belief that the Divens were originally Scots-Irish, along with our other colonial Pennsylvania lines, turned out to be technically incorrect. (Of course, the Divens intermarried with multiple Scots-Irish lines once they settled in PA. And may have, even

¹ <http://www.oneworldtree.com/facts/Diven-family-history.ashx>
<http://www.houseofnames.com/xq/asp.c/qx/diven-coat-arms.htm>

² <http://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=devine>

³ <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Devine/default.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Devine/default.aspx?section=ycolored>

⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tirkennedy>

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Fermanagh and

Of the six counties of the Plantation, Donegal and Tyrone were given almost exclusively to Scots; Armagh and Derry were prevailingly English; Fermanagh and Cavan showed both Scottish and English influence. The other three counties of the province, though not part of the Plantation, likewise had been the scene of settlement...Down and Antrim contained very successful colonies planted by the Scotsmen Montgomery and Hamilton, while Antrim also had Chichester's English colonists. Only Monaghan, of the nine counties, remained truly Irish, for only one successful "foreign" settlement was made therein. King James had been explicit... to exclude all Highlanders from the Plantation.... Galloway, that region of the southwest which included the shires of Ayr, Dumfries, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Lanark, provided the greatest number....The counties around Edinburgh came next in order, while a much smaller contingent came from the district lying between Aberdeen and Inverness in the northwest.... Ulster became the meeting-ground, after 1610, of three people of widely different culture and backgrounds – Scottish Lowlanders, English farmers and Londoners, and Irish natives.... The English element was, from the outset, the smallest number.

James G. Leyburn; The Scotch-Irish, a Social History; 1962. Pages 93-96

before they left Ulster ⁷.) We were not able to communicate with our Diven cousin who contributed his DNA to this project, and do not know who he is/was.

An article from Irish Roots magazine ⁸ tells us that the Irish O'Daimhín (Devine) sept was in Fermanagh as early as 1066, but after the conquest of Northern Ireland in the early 1600's, many of the Devines became protestant, were granted lands in Tyrone, And that is where Alexander was said to have come from.

..... the O'Daimhín (Devine) sept. This rare Christian name occurs in the early genealogies of the Airghialla people, who inhabited Fermanagh, Monaghan and Armagh in early historic times. One of these men was ancestor to this sept, the first of whom to merit mention was Dunchadh Ua Daimhene, coarb (hereditary possessor of church land) of Derry, who died in 1066. A descendant must have been the Domhnall Ua Daimhine slain at the church door of the monastery of Derry in 1212.

The mainline of the family were aristocrats of the Airghialla and kings of one section of that people, the Fir Manach, who give their name to modern Fermanagh. The annals record the obituary of Flaithbertach Ua Daimhine, king of Fir Manach, in 1278. Soon after this the family were superseded in the kingship by their distant relatives, the Maguire sept, and confined to the sub-kingship of the smaller territory of Tir Cennfota, now the barony of Tirkennedy in mid-Fermanagh. The obituaries of two Ó Daimhín kings of this territory are recorded, that of Donn Ua Daimhine in 1349 and of Brian Ua Daimhine in 1427.

An entry of 1447, which records the slaying of a Maguire claimant to Fermanagh by 'the sons of Ua Daimhín' in the service of a rival Maguire, suggest that the sept were still powerful in Fermanagh then. We know that in the period that followed, however, the Maguire's ramified to the extent of dispossessing most of their under-kings and giving their lands to their own younger sons, so's that within a few decades the Maguire clan owned virtually the whole of Fermanagh.

After this we hear no more of noble Devines, rather of such men as Cuconnacht and Jenkin O'Devane who, after the conquest of Ulster in the early seventeenth century, conformed to the Protestant religion and were awarded lands under the Plantation of Ulster. This was around Dungannon in County Tyrone, which was still, in the mid-nineteenth century, the county with the greatest number of Devine households in Ireland, with nearly 100 of a total of around 550. Derry / Londonderry came in next, with 60, while only three Devine households occur in Fermanagh. The remaining households were well scattered throughout Ulster, Leinster and Connacht.

Unfortunately for the precise genealogist, all that we know about patriarch James, as well as Diven spouse names for the first few generations, comes from OPD or other people's family trees on Ancestry.com. Take those with the leeway accorded to unsubstantiated records.

Diven lineage

- **James Diven** (born in 1700 Sweet, Tyrone, Ireland – died ??) OPD. That Alexander's father was named James is possible but unproven. And the birth date for

⁷ On the subject of Scots-Irish, we highly recommend James G. Leyburn, The Scotch-Irish, a Social History; 1962.

⁸ Paul MacCotter, Irish Roots Magazine. Issue 2, Page 9. 2000.
http://family.devinetime.co.nz/devine_name.aspx

James of 1700, followed by that of Alexander at 1715, is highly questionable.

- **Alexander Diven** (abt 1715 Tyrone Valley, County Tyrone, N Ireland – d. before August 1762⁹ Sherman's Valley, Tyrone Twp, Cumberland/Perry Co PA¹⁰) married **Margaret Smith** (b. 1720 England – d. after 1800 Sherman Valley, Tyrone, Twp, Perry Co, PA) supposedly in about 1740 in County Tyrone, N Ireland.

We know that Alexander arrived in the colonies in or before 1755, along with some family members such as son James. Some think in the 1740's. But what about other family members? We have a little evidence of other nearby Divens, who may have emigrated with Alexander.

A William Diven/Devin warranted 154 acres at the confluence of Licking Creek and Tuscarora Creek in Milford Township on the same day in 1755 as Alexander's warrant was filed¹¹; in fact their warrants hold consecutive registration numbers. This property is some distance from Alexander's, however – it is now in Juniata County, and William Diven purchased it along with a man named George White¹². By 1763, the property was owned by the Campbell family¹³; when the two pieces were later surveyed, they were in the hands of John Suliff and William Wilson¹⁴. We have no idea if, or how, this William was related to Alexander, but work done by his (possible) descendants suggests a relationship.

We were contacted by David Devin, descendent of a William Devin (b abt 1724- 1802), who believes that this might have been his ancestor, and that William may have left PA and moved to Pittsylvania County, VA between 1761 and 1764 (the time-frame when many Scots-Irish migrated out of Pennsylvania to southern colonies and certainly when the Perry County folks would have been sick and tired of waiting out the Indian raids), where he once again owned land adjoining land owned by a man named White (first name unknown). David told us that DNA evidence¹⁵ suggests this William and "our" Alexander were related, possibly even brothers.

⁹ We know Alexander was dead before August 1762 because of a survey of his property that referred to his orphans. One OPD record has his death at 12 March 1765.

¹⁰ Perry County was erected from Cumberland in 1820.

¹¹ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-88WarrantRegisters/CumberlandPages/Cumberland38.pdf>

¹² History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata valleys, embraced in the counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania... Edited by F. Ellis and A. N. Hungerford. Published in Philadelphia by Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Pages 762-771
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~milliken/alguss/milford3.html>

¹³ Dennis Hocker, Three Bloody Days in July, 2011. Pages 31-32. <http://www.perryheritage.com/>

¹⁴ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-88WarrantRegisters/CumberlandPages/Cumberland38.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Devine/default.aspx?section=ycolored>

DNA samples representing William Devin (d 1802) and Alexander Diven (d:c1762) have a genetic distance of 2 at 37 markers. The 'experts' say this is close enough to suggest that the people submitting the samples may be 2nd cousins. However, the paper trails for the samples show that the samples from each line cannot be any closer than 7th cousins. Two samples representing descendants of William Devin are exact matches at 37 markers. The two samples represent 5th cousins from two different sons of William Devin, suggesting very stable y-DNA markers at that resolution, which suggests a genetic distance of two would be about right for a common ancestor in the eighth or ninth generation between William and Alexander.

William Devin (d 1802 in Pittsylvania County VA) was known to be in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in 1759 by a statement in a Revolutionary War Pension Declaration by his son, Robert. A William Diven is found in the 1757 tax list for Martic Township in Lancaster County, PA. If the historical stories are correct and many of the 1755 settlers abandoned their land in Cumberland County between 1756 and 1765, then it would not be inconsistent that his family evacuated the land at the confluence of Licking Creek and Tuscarora Creek to retire to Lancaster County by 1757. A deed by a William Diven in Lancaster County in 1761 sells household goods. One of the witnesses was a James Diven. While both Alexander and William had sons named, James, neither of those sons could have been old enough to be a witness on a legal document, which suggests there was a third Diven adult male in the area at that time; (a father, brother, or uncle perhaps?)

While I have yet to find clear evidence that this William Diven is my ancestor, the same tax list contains a large cluster of men who also appear later as a cluster in Pittsylvania County VA. Many of these families intermarried, both in Lancaster county and Pittsylvania County, and several are known to be the same people in both counties. In addition, the historical references about the William Diven/George White land suggests they never returned to the land at the confluence of Licking Creek and Tuscarora Creek, which would support his/their migrating to Virginia sometime between 1761 and 1764.

Lastly, William Devin and Alexander Devin both named their first son, James. William Devin named a son, Alexander; Alexander named a son, William. ¹⁶

So it is possible that the Divens' immigration to Colonial America may involve a classic "three brothers" (and possibly a sister as well) story, but it is unlikely that we will ever know for certain.

There is an unsubstantiated OPD story that Alexander had a first wife, Katherine Casey, in Ireland and had children there. Our information about Margaret Smith also comes from OPD, as do the facts of her 2 later husbands. Supposedly Margaret died in Sherman's Valley sometime after 1800 ¹⁷. So Margaret Smith may or may not have been the mother of Alexander's son James (born 1741, supposedly in Ireland). But we are so unsure of the Katherine Casey OPD that we have struck it from our Ancestry tree, even as a faint possibility.

Alexander's children's birth dates (also OPD) suggest the family migrated to America before 1751. One Sons of the American Revolution application tells us that date might

¹⁶ David Devin, personal correspondence

¹⁷ Many family trees provide the information that, after Alexander's death, Margaret Smith re-married twice in Perry Co. to William Nelson in 1766 and James McCurdy in 1790. We have not been able to substantiate any of this. But it is more information to set Alexander's death before 1766.

have been as early as 1740. One Rootsweb entry stated that Alexander may have lived in York Co for while?

Came from county Tyrone, Ireland to York Co, PA, then to Spring Twp, Perry Co, PA in 1755, the year the land office opened. ¹⁸

Whenever he arrived in the Colonies, Alexander “took up land” in what was then Tyrone Township, Cumberland County (now Spring/Carroll Twp, Perry Co). Alexander warranted acreage on “Crawford’s Run in Sherman’s Valley”, (now known as Perry Furnace Run) on March 1st or 3rd, 1755, according to old history books, an entry in the Pennsylvania Archives, and warrant registers ¹⁹. The price of the land was Fifteen Pounds, Ten shillings “current money of this province” for the “one hundred acres” and the quit-rent (= tax) one-half penny per acre per year. ²⁰

It is thought that those who warranted acreage so quickly after the land office opened in 1755 might already have been settled and improving their land ²¹. Settlers had to clearly mark their claim, often with hatchet marks in trees (hence, the claim might be known as a “hatchet claim”) and make an improvement on the land before their claim was legal. An improvement was usually a cabin, barn, mill or dam. When the settler went to the land office, he had a description of what he was claiming, which might contain estimated distances from marked trees and often zigzagged around desirable areas, such as creeks, stands of timber, etc.

The following is the process for legally acquiring land as described by the Pennsylvania Archives. The five basic steps in the process are:

1. Application – a request for a warrant to have a survey made...
2. Warrant – certificate authorizing a survey of a tract of land which initiates title of a property and provides basis for legal settlement, but does not convey all rights to the property. Originally a warrant was an order to conduct a survey, specifying the amount of land to be surveyed and in early years, whether it was an original purchaser or not. .. [if not] a chain of title is given.
3. Survey – sketch of boundaries of the tract of land with exact determination of total acreage.
4. Return – verbal description of the property boundaries...
5. Patent – final official deed from the Penns or the commonwealth, which ensures clear title and all rights to private owner.

¹⁸ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=kl2u&id=I1495>
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/cumberland/history/family/bask0001.txt>

¹⁹ Or on March 1, according to <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-88WarrantRegisters/CumberlandPages/Cumberland38.pdf>.

²⁰ This was written on the original document, a copy of which was found at the Perry Historians Lenig library in the Diven file. It is not on the reproduction at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20119.pdf>

²¹ Dennis Hocker, “Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park”, Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 83

So an early warrant was “the proof of the right to settle, occupy, and improve the property.”²²

Some sources say that Alexander’s warrant was for 374 acres, yet another source says it was 195 acres (explained below). Many histories claim that Indian attacks were so bad in 1755 that the settlers had to withdraw to Carlisle until it was safe to return in about 1765²³, which could have been after Alexander’s death.

We know that some settlers stayed in Perry or returned after the French-Indian War, and were killed during a second wave of Indian attacks in the Perry area in 1760’s, and Alexander’s death was supposedly in Sherman’s Valley (OPD) and before August of 1762²⁴. So we believe the Diven family may have returned to their land by 1762. However, we also have a pretty complete list of the folks who were killed during the attacks of the 1760’s and no Diven was among them.²⁵

Here’s why there were different reports of the extent of Alexander’s acreage: The first survey, done in 1762, cites Alexander’s acreage as 374 acres²⁶. Apparently, this was done shortly after Alexander’s death, so we can infer he died just before August 1762; perhaps in March of that year, as one OPD account states. The surveyor noted on the survey that:

Having been informed that different persons have attempted to injure the orphans of Alexander Devin in their property of the above tract, and no person making any pretention thereto at the time of survey, I have returned the survey without so strict a regard to ye size of the warrant as is usual. There is a considerable interference between this and a Retⁿ [return of] 143 A for Francis West.²⁷

²² Life Along the Shermans, Dennis Hocker, 2010. <http://www.perryheritage.com/>

²³ <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/cumberland/history/family/bask0001.txt>

We also know that settlers near Carlisle (such as our Junkin ancestors in New Kingstown) withdrew all the way back to Chester during this period, but they had relatives there.

Immediately upon the beginning of settlement in the area the Indians took action to protect their lands. The Indian uprising of 1755 took many lives on both sides of the battle.

Life Along the Shermans, Dennis Hocker, 2010. <http://www.perryheritage.com/>

²⁴ One family tree at Ancestry has Alexander’s death date as 12 March 1762 in Shermans Valley, Perry, Pennsylvania. The owner of the tree, however, has not replied to our questions about the source of this fact.

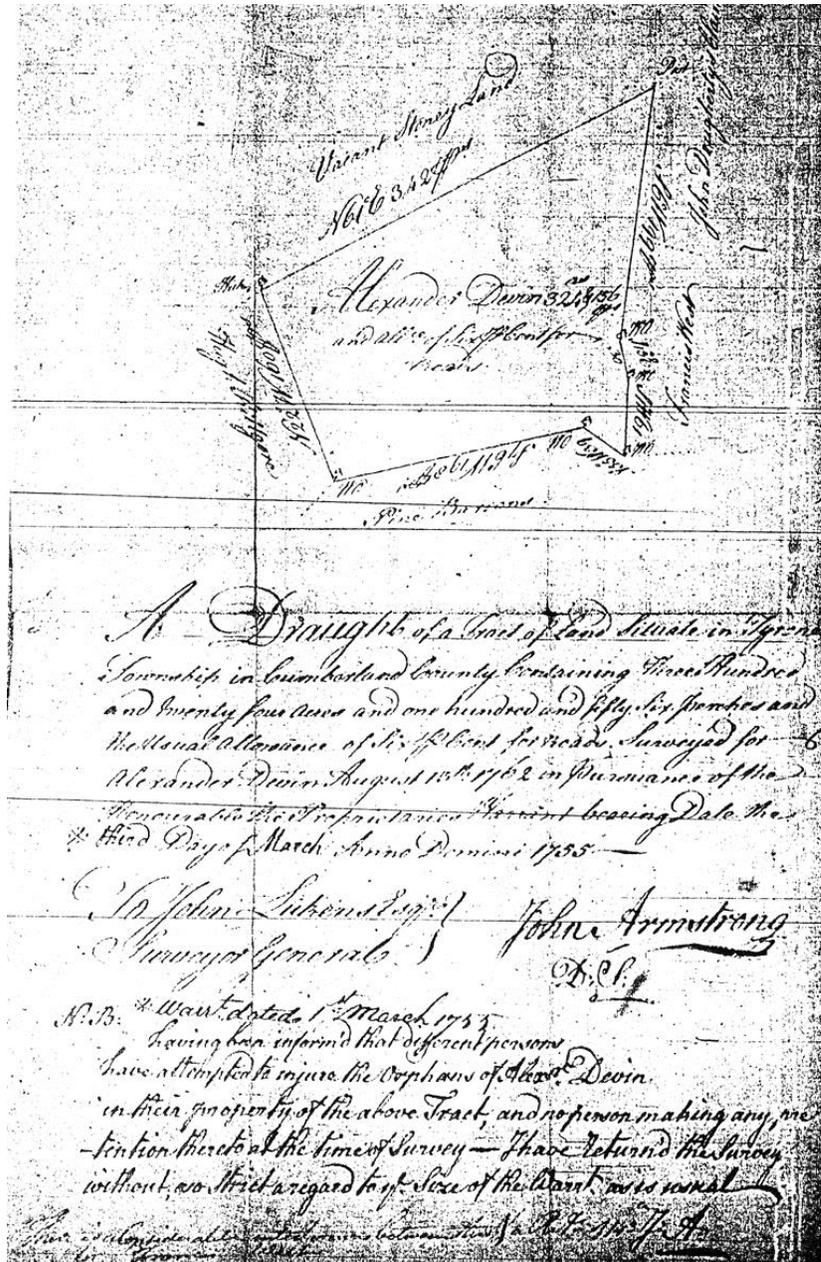
²⁵ And Linda Martin Gilmore, Peril and Perseverance in the Pennsylvania backcountry 1755-1765. 2016. <http://lindamartingilmore.com/index.html>

And Dennis Hocker, Three Bloody Days in July. 2011. <http://www.perryheritage.com/>

²⁶ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20119.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20119.pdf>

It is possible that Indian dangers caused the survey to do be done quickly, but also the methods of estimating acreage was probably not as accurate as they would become later. Importantly, the back of this survey was marked "useless". ²⁸



The 1762 survey of Alexander Diven's 374 acres ²⁹

²⁸ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20120.pdf>

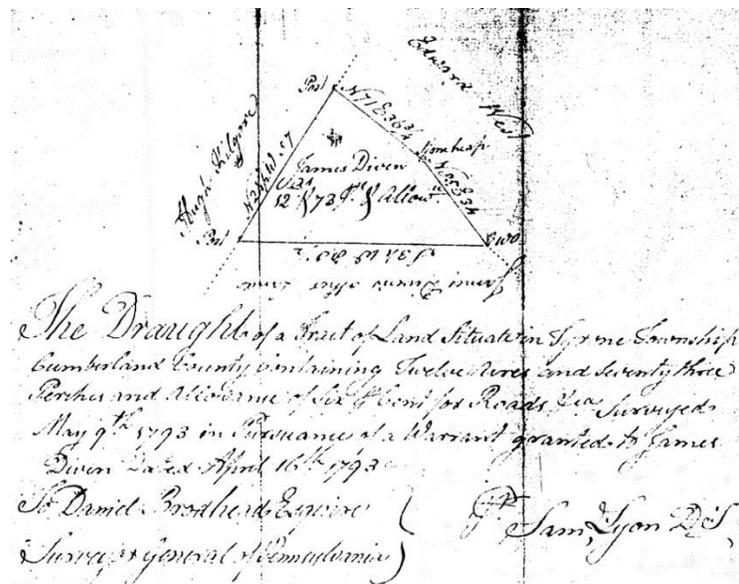
²⁹ This copy of the original document was found at the Perry Historians Lenig library in the Diven file. It is available in reproduction at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20119.pdf>

In the 1772 Caveat Book ³⁰, there was a “caveat” to acceptance of a survey to warrant the property. We assume that was why the 1762 survey was marked as “useless”. The property was resurveyed in 1772 as 208 acres ³¹, but this one too had a note that:

This survey appears to interfere with Hugh Kilgore’s draft....and a small part with his warranted tract...³²

Then when the patent was granted in 1812, it was once again surveyed, this time as 195 acres ³³. This is the same acreage which yet another source claims was warranted by James Diven, and that’s because James was the son who finally received the patent in 1812 and who purchased an adjoining piece in 1793.

In 1793, James also bought a triangle of land, adjoining the other land and paid “Ten Pounds per hundred acres in gold, silver, or paper money” for that parcel:



A survey done in May 1793 in pursuance of an April 1793 warrant for James Diven’s 12+ acre property. The boundary between this and the larger piece says “James Diven’s other land”. ³⁴

³⁰ 1772 Caveat Book – no. 5, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 3, Volume II, page 501-502

³¹ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20121.pdf>

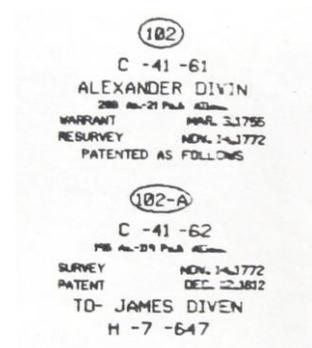
³² <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20121.pdf>

³³ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20123.pdf>

³⁴ This copy of the original document was found at the Perry Historians Lenig library in the Diven file. It is available in reproduction at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20125.pdf>

The 1812 patent states that Alexander and James each had warranted parts of the land (Alexander in 1755 and James in 1793), that Alexander died intestate, and the Orphan's Court had assigned his rights to James. This document also claimed there were 208 acres and the price had been \$298.67.

The area of these purchases is now in Spring and Carroll Twps, but was in Tyrone Twp at the time of the warrant. The dotted line which runs almost vertically through the property in the image below is now the current Spring/Carroll Township border. Based on the concatenated survey maps and current maps ³⁵, we estimate the location of this land as being in the Page Hill Rd/Pike Rd area north of the hamlet of Falling Spring. Crawford Run is now known as Perry Furnace Run, and as so often happens, the outline of this parcel is still visible in the satellite maps (below). The creeks which run through the concatenated map below also are drawn on the 1772 survey map ³⁶.

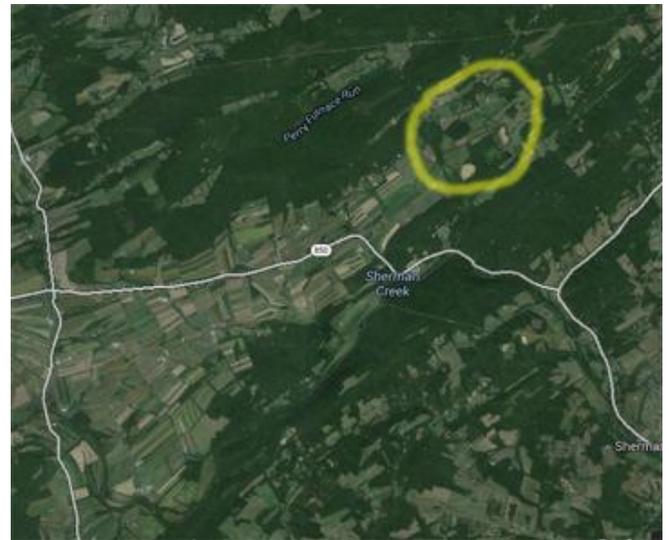
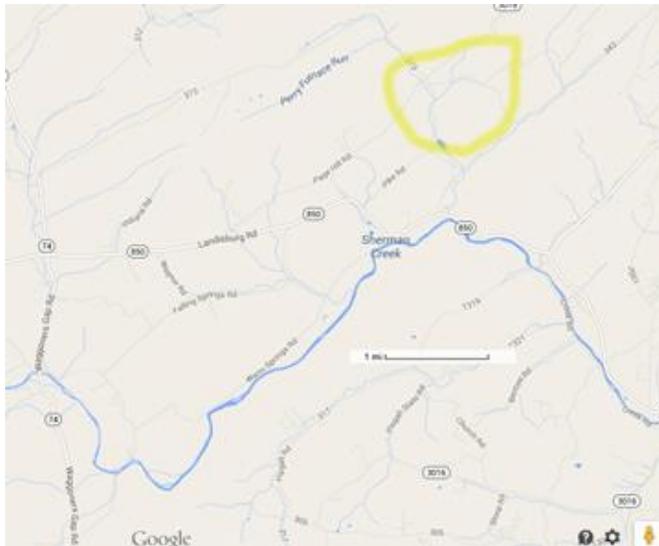


Two images photographed from the large scroll of concatenated land surveys at Lenig Library of the Perry Co Historical Society ³⁷ for what is now Spring Twp. Lot 102 was warranted to Alexander Diven in 1755. The patent was issued in 1812 to son James Diven. James' triangle of land purchased in 1793 is marked here as vacant.

³⁵ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-522WarranteeTwpMaps/r017Map3007PerrySpringWeb.pdf>

³⁶ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20C1-C234/Book%20C041/Book%20C-041%20pg%20121.pdf>

³⁷ <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-522WarranteeTwpMaps/r017Map3007PerrySpringWeb.pdf>



Area of Alexander's warrant (Google maps, 2014)

About the Indian attacks:

.....Further trouble with the Indians was avoided by the Land Purchase of 1754, which included the region embraced in the Juniata Valley. The Indian wars, however, not only rendered settlement in this area hazardous, but resulted in the temporary abandonment of it by many of the inhabitants. Hence it was not until about 1766 or 1767 that it was reoccupied in force by the settlers who had fled...³⁸

On the 3rd of February, 1755, the Land Office was opened for the sale of lands in Sherman's Valley and on the Juniata River.... Owing to the fact that Braddock's defeat left the whole frontier exposed to the ravages of the cruel and merciless savages, very little land was entered at the Land Offices from the fall of 1755 to 1761.

All the settlements north of the Kittatinny Mountains were wasted by the savages and the improvements destroyed or deserted, and their inhabitants fled to the Cumberland Valley for protection. The settlers of Sherman's Valley, and on the Juniata, suffered....we have vague accounts of the torturing of white human beings... In Sherman's Valley Indian atrocity reached the highest degree of cruelty. Here the well-known savage vengeance was wreaked upon man, woman, and child.³⁹

For two or three years after the attacks [of 1755 and 1756], Shearman's Valley was empty. Perhaps a few settlers would steal over the Kittatinny Mountain to check on their claims. However, as the decade waned, many settlers returned.⁴⁰

³⁸ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944
also see <http://files.usgarchives.org/pa/cumberland/history/family/bask0001.txt>

³⁹ History of Perry County in Pennsylvania, from Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, Silas Wright; Lancaster, PA, 1837; pages 14-15.

⁴⁰ Linda Martin Gilmore, Peril and Perseverance in the Pennsylvania backcountry 1755-1765. 2016. Page 79. <http://lindamartingilmore.com/index.html>

Settlers from the Tuscarora Valley and Shermans Valley fled for their lives to Shippensburg and Carlisle....By the end of July [1763] nearly 1400 refugees from what we know today as Perry and Juniata Counties were living in sheds and barns in the Cumberland Valley.... A massive aid program was conducted by churches of Carlisle, York, and Philadelphia to send funds, food, clothing, and blankets to the refugees. Most did not return to their homes until the Indians were soundly defeated in the western part of the state and the Ohio Valley a year later. ⁴¹

On the 25th of July there were in Shippensburgh 1384 of our poor distressed Back Inhabitants, viz. men 301, women 345, children 738; many of whom were obliged to lie in barns, stables, cellars, and under leaky old sheds, the dwelling houses all being crowded. ⁴²

Carlisle was become the barrier, not a single inhabitant beyond it; that every stable and hovel in the town was crowded with miserable refugees.... On both side of the Susquehanna, for some miles, the woods were filled with poor families, and their cattle, who made fires, and lived like savages.... ⁴³

We do not know much more about Alexander. There are a lot of trees at Ancestry.com which indicate that he and Margaret had as many as 6 children.

- We are sure of the connection of Alexander to his oldest son, James Diven (1741 Northern Ireland -1818 Sherman Valley, Tyrone Twp, Perry Co, PA, USA) who stayed in what became Perry Co his entire life after serving in the Revolution. Our direct ancestor --see a lot more about him and his family further along in this document. See our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) for "Descendants of James Diven and Margaret Waddell".
- Joseph Mason Diven (1755 Sherman Valley, Tyrone Twp, Perry Co, PA, USA - 1830 Tyrone, Perry, PA), about whose tie to Alexander we are sure, also stayed in what became Perry Co after the Revolution although there are also tax records for a Joseph Diven in Carlisle, PA in the 1780's. Married Elizabeth Catherine McClure and had perhaps 10 children. Joseph and Elizabeth were buried at Centre Presbyterian Churchyard, Perry Co, PA. Elizabeth and Joseph Diven children's names were recorded in 1821 in the Thomas and Mary McPherson bible and published by Lowell Thomas Dec 22, 2000. ⁴⁴

Absalom Diven was born August 11, 1778
Mary Diven was born August 11, 1778
Margaret Diven, Deceased was born June 25, 1780
Margaret Diven, the younger was born June 23, 1782
Jane Diven was born November 14, 1784
Joseph Diven was born January 14 1788
Elizabeth Diven was born May 01, 1790
James Diven was born January 21, 1793

⁴¹ Dennis Hocker, Three Bloody Days in July, 2011. Pages 26 and 89. <http://www.perryheritage.com/>

⁴² August 4, 1763 Pennsylvania Gazette

⁴³ July 28, 1763 Pennsylvania Gazette

⁴⁴ <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/indiana/bibles/thomasmcphersonbible.txt>

Absalom Diven was born June 30, 1795
Thomas Diven was born January 27, 1798
Elizabeth's parents were William McClure and Jane Kilgore

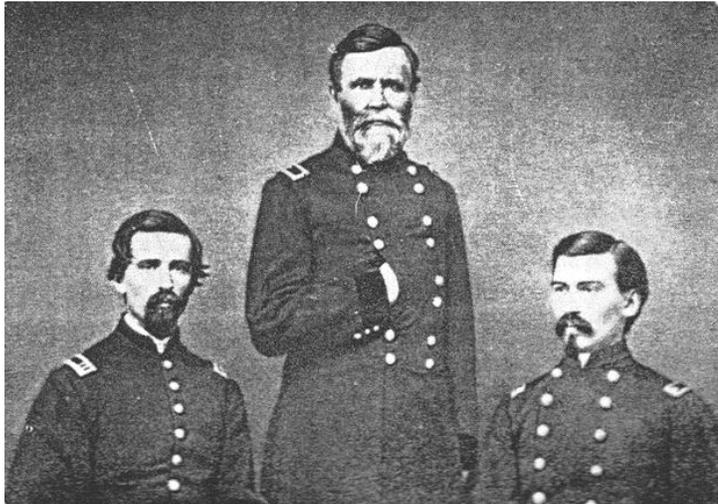
See our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) for "Descendants of Joseph Mason Diven and Elizabeth Catherine McClure"

- John H. Diven (1757 Cumberland Co, PA – 1842 Dix, Schuyler, NY), certainly a son of Alexander, who married Margaret Baskin and Eleanor Means. John...

...was serving as a cabinet-maker's apprentice just prior to his enlistment for service in the Revolutionary War. He was at Valley Forge when his first enlistment expired. General Washington, in a tearful, impassioned speech, asked the Pennsylvania men to re-enlist. He called for volunteers to step forward two paces. John Diven quickly answered his general's plea and others followed his example. John remained in the army until receiving his honorable discharge after Yorktown. ⁴⁵

Valley Forge muster rolls do not yet support this claim, but it's a great family story! John later purchased land in Tioga County, NY and quickly became a leader in his community. His sons and grandsons became attorneys, railroad tycoons, decorated Union Army officers in the Civil War, public servants, and respected businessmen in Elmira, NY for generations. ^{46 47}

See our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) for "Descendants of John H. Diven".



Grandson of Alexander Diven and son of John Diven: Alexander Samuel Diven (1809 – 1896), standing.

His sons, Eugene (1843 – 1888, left) and Alexander (1841 – 1888, right), seated. ⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Elmira's Diven Family, William Vanderslip; The Chemung Historical Journal, Vol. 12, No. 4, Elmira, NY. June 1967

⁴⁶ Elmira's Diven Family, William Vanderslip; The Chemung Historical Journal, Vol. 12, No. 4, Elmira, NY. June 1967

⁴⁷ <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/cumberland/history/family/bask0001.txt>

⁴⁸ Elmira's Diven Family, William Vanderslip; The Chemung Historical Journal, Vol. 12, No. 4, Elmira, NY. June 1967

Other supposed children of Alexander's (but of whom we are a bit less certain – much OPD involved) were:

- William (1753 – bef.1850) who was OPD born in Sherman's Valley before 1755, served in the 11th Pennsylvania regiment during the Revolution and later in the Invalid Corps ⁴⁹ or Invalid Regiment ⁵⁰ and who may have moved to Schuyler Co, NY where his brother John was living, and died there abt 1842. Knowledge of him is sketchy and nothing is known for sure about offspring, although one tree has him marrying a Mary Carlisle and having a son named George. We have included this in the Ancestry tree but with caveats. See our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) for "Descendants of William Diven and Mary Carlisle".
- Mary (1751-1847) who married John M. Glenn (1741-1819) and gave rise to a very large family of Glenn descendants starting in Centre County, PA. We have documented Mary and John's descendants, although we are not completely sure she was a daughter of Alexander's. See our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) for "Descendants of Mary Diven and John M Glenn".
- Jane (bef 1759-1800) for whom we found two Ancestry trees (OPD) which had her marrying men named McCoy and/or McCurdy. Unfortunately, we found no substantiation for this and so have not done any further research on her.

The "Descendants of Alexander Diven and Margaret Smith", generated by Family Tree Maker software using the same tree database, on our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) contains all the descendants we have been able to track through public records including some for the three children of whose connection we are less sure. However, it is a "work in progress". I have outlined only ONE of Mary Diven Glenn's children in a winter's work of hours per day.

⁴⁹ To help injured soldiers, the Continental Congress formed a special group of soldiers. They were all people who had been wounded. They were called the Invalid Regiment. They could not fight, but they could do helpful jobs.

http://www.cbsd.org/curriculum/library/papeople/Pages/1_Corbin.aspx

The Corps of Invalids was a separate branch of the Continental Army. It was composed of Continental Army veterans who had become unfit for field duty but who could still usefully serve as guards for magazines, hospitals, and similar installations. The noncommissioned officers were also supposed to be proficient in mathematics because the corps was intended to serve as a military academy in addition to its other duties. The military academy seems to have been a dead letter, but otherwise the corps carried out its duties, most notably at West Point, New York.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Continental_Army_units_\(1777%E2%80%931784\)#Invalid_Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Continental_Army_units_(1777%E2%80%931784)#Invalid_Corps)

⁵⁰ A List of the Mens' Names That has Joined the Corps of Invalids, Sept 27th, 1778. Continental Line. The Invalid Regiment. Col. Lewis Nicola. June 20, 1777-1783. Pennsylvania Archives, Series 5, Vol IV, page 19.

Not all Divens in colonial central PA were from Alexander's stock: There were also Divens in Juniata Co, PA, a family sired by Samuel Diven (1804 Tyrone, Ireland – 1883 Lack Twp, Juniata Co) and Margaret Rhine (?? – 1893 Juniata Co, PA) – related? Well maybe -- but any connection remains unknown, and Samuel immigrated decades after our line was established in Perry Co.

Also, in 1831, an iron furnace was established in Rock Hill by Diven (Thomas N.) & Morrison. In the 1860's, a David Diven was a county commissioner.⁵¹ We are not aware that their lineages were connected with ours.

We do not know of a burial site for Alexander. The most likely explanation is that he was buried somewhere on his land in Perry County (assuming he died IN Perry at all!). Divens in the Centre Presbyterian Church Cemetery mostly had death dates beginning in the mid-1800's.⁵²

⁵¹ A History of the Juniata Valley and its People, John W. Jordan, 1913.

⁵² <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/perry/cemeteries/centrepres01.txt>

- **James Diven** [*Alexander*] (b, about 1741 in Tyrone Valley, County Tyrone, North Ireland – d. 1818 Sherman’s Valley, Tyrone Twp, Cumberland/Perry, PA) Before 1764, James married **Margaret Nancy Waddell** (born about 1741 Cumberland Co. – d. after 1818). OPD tell us that Margaret Nancy was the daughter of John Waddell (1729 County Down, Northern Ireland -1795 Ohio County, WV—or what is now WV) and Mary Dickey (1739 Cumberland Co, PA -1818 Ohio Co, WV), although dates do not add up correctly so this may not be correct.

The 1812 patent for Alexander’s and James’ land, which we described above, stated that Alexander had died intestate and that the land rights had fallen to James. Confusingly, James was assessed for only 100 acres in (then) Tyrone Twp in 1767⁵³, 5 years after Alexander may have died. In 1782, he was assessed for 146 acres, 2 horses and one cow; and for 140 acres, 2 horses and 4 cows in 1785⁵⁴. It is possible he paid tax only on improved portions of the land⁵⁵. He did not buy the 12-acre triangle of land until 1793.

There is another tract of 150 acres in Tyrone Twp. which James and *his* son James (1765 Sherman’s Valley – 1809 Tyrone, Cumberland/Perry PA) bought from Samuel Ickes for \$126 in 1811. After James, Jr. died (perhaps in 1809 or between 1811 and 1814⁵⁶), it was transferred to “James Diven, Sr., and the heirs of James Diven, Jr.” The 1814 survey showed this property as lying less than a mile from Sherman’s Creek, but did not provide much information for one unskilled in reading surveys to locate that piece of land. It could be that this was a piece of land near the Alinda crossroads. One of the sons of James, Jr. was Richard P. Diven [*James, James, Alexander*], who was shown living along current Route 850, just west of the Alinda crossroads in the 1863 Atlas of Perry Co, and who censused in Spring Twp in 1860 as a millwright. This may have been that 150-acre tract.

⁵³ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Page 963.

⁵⁴ Transcripts and Taxables of the County of Cumberland, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 3, Vol XX, pages 643, 762.

⁵⁵ While these men were warranting hundreds of acres of land, the average farm had only five to ten cleared acres. Life Along the Shermans, Dennis Hocker, 2010. <http://www.perryheritage.com/>

⁵⁶ James Jr. was said to have died 1809, but he and his father apparently bought land in 1811. In 1814, however, the survey says “heirs of James Diven Jr.”. On 9 Feb 1819, Nancy Diven, Mother of John, Alexander, Richard, and Sarah Diven, minor children of James Diven the younger, late of Tyrone twp, deceased came to orphan’s Court to have guardians named for the children. Petitioner’s husband James Diven lately died leaving all his above named children minors under 14 without guardians over their persons and estates. John and Joseph Diven were appointed guardians. (Cumberland County Orphans Court, 1818-1825, vol 7, page 118). The children (John, Alexander, Richard, and Sarah) were said to have been born between 1800 and 1809. Very confusing and not a tangle we care to unravel. Suffice it to say that James, Jr died somewhere between 1809 and 1814.

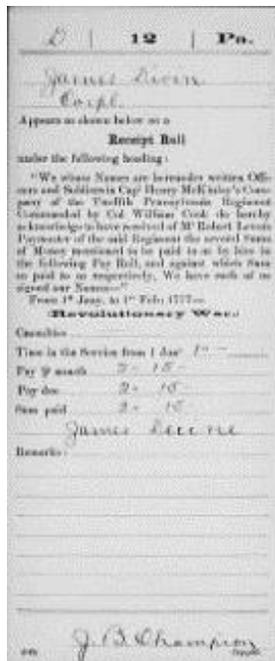


Alinda, Spring Township, Perry Co., PA.

The ellipse marks the property of Richard P. Diven [James, James, Alexander], the only property owned by a Diven family in the township at the time of this Atlas.

In 1834, John Diven [James, Alexander], bought the mill which, in this map, is attributed to C. Thudium. John was an uncle to Richard P. Diven and we suspect that Richard, who censused in 1860 as a millwright, worked at that mill adjacent to his property. ⁵⁷

James [Alexander] fought in the Revolutionary War, in the 12th regiment....



Served in Rev War: Corporal, enlisted 12 Nov 1776 Military

James Diven's Revolutionary War service record. ⁵⁸

And later James served in the Cumberland County Militia (1782) ⁵⁹ and established the family tanning business.

⁵⁷ Map of the counties of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Pennsylvania, 1863.

⁵⁸ Pennsylvania Archives, found at footnote.com.

⁵⁹ Muster Rolls relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Cumberland, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 5, Vol VI, page 360.

The Diven Tanneries:

Based on the research we and others ⁶⁰ have done, there were perhaps four separate tanneries owned and operated by various Divens in the 1800's. Here is where the lineage of each man in square bracket and italics comes in handy because it gets very confusing very quickly!

The first tannery was on James Diven's [*Alexander*] Spring/Carroll Twp land:

The Diven family is known for their large tannery in Landisburg, but before they started that tannery, they lived east of Landisburg. In 1755 James Diven warranted 195 acres on which he later built a tannery.

This tract was located close to the West property near Gibson's Rock. James had two sons, Joseph and John. In 1830 the property was sold to Danile Spotts and was owned by his son in the 1880s. The mansion farm was left to his wife who died in 1832, then sold to Jonathan Dunkelberger and next Abraham Wertz.... Township maps show the Diven property adjacent to that of the Dunkelbergers...⁶¹

The second tannery was on lots 7, 8, 9, 10 in Landisburg. J. Scroggs and John Bigler first owned the property on which Scroggs built the tannery. It was bought (sometime before 1814) by James [*Alexander*] who also built a house on and lived on lot 20 in Landisburg. ⁶² This may be the house which was described:

Several Divens were associated with early businesses in Landisburg. One James Diven had a relatively small, two storey wooden house in 1798 measuring 28 x 26 feet with a one story kitchen measuring 20 x 16 feet. ⁶³

After James' death, it was rented by his "heirs" until 1840 (one of these was a grandson James Alexander Diven [*Alexander, James, Alexander*], who built tannery #3 below and died 1840).

⁶⁰ Jean Hohenshilt Tuzinski, Tanneries of Perry County: Spring Township, Perry Historians Newsletter, May 2015, pages 6-7 and May 2016, pages 4-5.

Jean quotes: History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922. p. 1027; and History of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. p. 1052.

⁶¹ Jean Hohenshilt Tuzinski, Tanneries of Perry County: Spring Township, Perry Historians Newsletter, May 2015, pages 6-7 and May 2016, pages 4-5.

⁶² Landisburg was laid out in 1793 and lots were sold until 1813.

History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Page 965
Also Clouse, A Walking Tour of Landisburg, The Perry Review (Perry Historians), vol 18-19, 1993-94. Pg 5.

⁶³ Clouse, The Landisburg Area in the 1790's During the Political Unrest of the Whiskey Rebellion, The Perry Review (Perry Historians), vol 18-19, 1993-94. Page 131-148.

TANYARD For Rent.

The subscribers, Guardians of the minor children of the late James Diven, dec'd. will rent by public outcry, on the premises, on **THURSDAY the 27th day of December next, for a term of years, a**

VALUABLE TANYARD,

Situate in the town of Landisburg, the only one in the place, and now occupied by Mr. Allen Nesbit. Persons wishing to rent can see the Yard at any time.

Terms made known and due attention given on said day by

JOHN DIVEN

&

JOSEPH DIVEN.

Landisburg Nov. 15, 1821 6c

John (1778 – 1839) and Joseph (1783 – after 1837) were both
[James, Alexander]

Advertisement from Perry Forester,
December 6, 1821

Reproduced in "Bits and Pieces,
100-75-50 Years Ago" The Perry
Review, Volume 18-19, 1993-1994.
The Perry Historians.

PUBLIC SALE.

THE subscriber, executor of the Estate of JAMES DIVEN, late of Tyrone township, Perry county, deceased, will expose to Public Sale, at the late residence of the deceased, on *Friday the 15th day of January next*, the following described Real Estate, viz. :

A VALUABLE & EXTENSIVE TANNERY,

Late the property of James Diven, deceased, situate in the borough of Landisburg, Perry county, (14 miles northwest from the Cumberland Valley Railroad at Carlisle, and 15 miles southwest of the Juniata Canal at Newport,) containing

FIFTY VATS,

with the necessary Leeches, Limes, Bates Pools and Cistern, connected by pipes, all under roof—also, horse power pumps, two Barkmills, Roller, Hidemills, and a new Steam Apparatus of seven horse power, in a suitable building under roof, ready to attach Barkmills and other machinery—and there is also



A large and substantial **Frame Building,**

two stories high, including Dry house, Currying and Beam shop, with 20 Handlers on the reeling system.—There is a good supply of running water. On the yard are all necessary buildings, comprising Mill house, Bark houses, Leather house, &c. &c. ; and also a good Frame Stable. There is an inexhaustible supply of Bark in the neighborhood.

JAMES A. DIVEN, *Ex'r*
Of the Estate of James Diven, dec'd.
Dec. 7. 3c

Adams Sentinel. Dec. 7, 1840.
Public Sale Clipping

In 1840, it was owned by *another* James Alexander Diven [James, James, Alexander]

The 1840 will of James Alexander Diven [Alexander, James, Alexander] appointed "friend James A. Diven" to supervise and direct his tanneries. And therein, again, lies the confusion created by 4 generations of Divens, every family of which seemed to name one

son James and one John! This second James Alexander Diven was not just a friend, but also both a cousin and/or in-law relative ⁶⁴.

In 1853, it was said to have been passed to “James D. Diven” until his death in 1872 and this may have been an error and was meant to be the second James A, as we do not have a James D. Diven in our tree that we know of and this James Alexander Diven censused in Landisburg in 1860 as a tanner. Dennis Hocker reports that it was later purchased by John L. Diven [*John, James, Alexander*] in 1863. ⁶⁵

In 1872, it was sold to William W. McClure who was assessed for a house, tanyard, 2 bark sheds, and a spring on 1+1/2 lots. In 1880, sold to D. Moffat & Co., of New York.

Perry County was at one time among the leading counties of the state in the tanning business and had tanneries in many localities... some of these are out of existence for half a century, an attempt has been made to record their locations.....**the Diven tannery in Landisburg**..... ⁶⁶

....the assessment roll of industries (in Tyrone Twp) included the following in the year 1814.....**James Diven**, Samuel Nickey, Robert Thompson, **tanyards**;..... ⁶⁷

James Diven purchased Lot 20, on which he erected a dwelling. The Diven tannery was located on lots purchased by J. Scroggs and John Bigler, Scroggs building it and selling it to **the younger James Diven**, who died in 1816. It was then rented by the heirs until 1840 when it was purchased by **James A. Diven**, a son and one of the heirs. In 1853, it passed to **John D. Diven** who died in 1872. The tannery was then sold to William W. McClure..... ⁶⁸

⁶⁴ We believe that this James A. Diven is the man whose grave is memorialized at Landisburg Cemetery: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6799450>. A son of James Jr whose orphaned children went to Orphan court with their mother in 1809.

⁶⁵ Dennis Hocker, “Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park”, Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 109

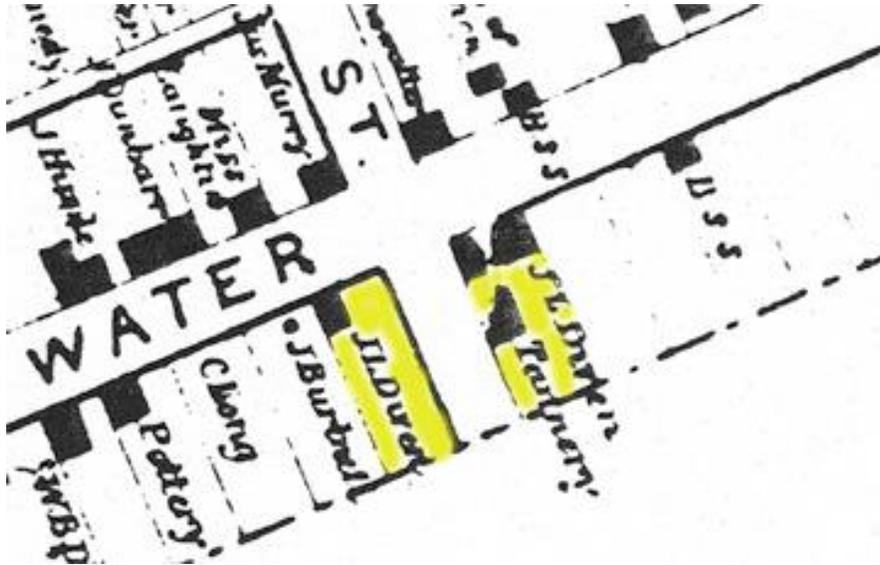
⁶⁶ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922, page 267

⁶⁷ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922. page 1070

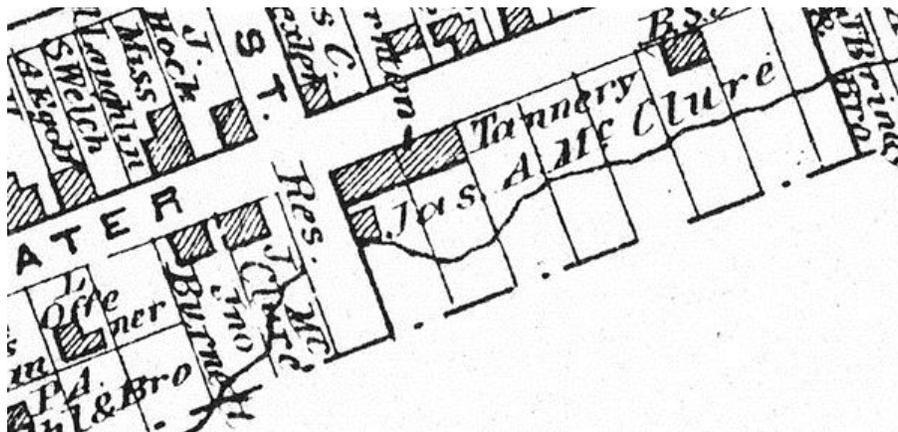
⁶⁸ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922, page 977

Landisburg Items: W. W. McClure, of Tyrone Twp. Recently purchased the tannery, late of the property of **John L. Diven**, deceased, and it is now in successful operation under the management of James M. McClure, who is a practical tanner. ⁶⁹

This business was shown in the Atlas of 1863 on Water St. as belonging to John L. Diven; the later 1877 atlas shows it as belonging to James McClure. The location is consistent with a map of the original Landisburg lot numbers from the Perry Historians. John Linn Diven's [John, James, Alexander] house, below, is on Lot 6 and the tannery on Lot 7:



Diven tannery and probable home of John Linn Diven, Water St., Landisburg
Map of the counties of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Pennsylvania, 1863.



⁶⁹ Advocate and Press, 9 Jul 1873

Map of Landisburg, 1877, showing Jas. A. McClure as owner of this same property, and quite a few more lots to the east. Atlas of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties, Pennsylvania, 1877



This photo, labeled "1900 tannery, Landisburg" gives us a taste of what a tannery facility looked like, and according to Dennis Hocker ⁷⁰, was on Lots 6-8 on down-sloping Water Street.
(Perry Historical Society files.)

⁷⁰ Dennis Hocker, "Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park", Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 109.

The third tannery:

Lots 1, 2, 23, 24 in Landisburg were bought by James Diven [*Alexander*] Lots 23 and 24 were across the road from 1 and 2.]

Also at some point in the 1820's, one of the many James Diven'ses, also bought 13 acres of land behind the tanneries on Lots 1 and 2 as well as 7 through 10.



A survey of James Diven's 13 acres overlaid on a map of Landisburg, showing the position of the 13 acres added to area probably used for tannery operations.

Map comes from Atlas of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties, Pennsylvania, 1877. survey reprinted in Landisburg History ⁷¹

James Alexander Diven [*Alexander, James, Alexander*] grandson, and the same man who rented Tannery #2 after 1816 or 1818, built a tannery on Lot 1 in 1831. In 1840, at his death, it passed to Parkinson Hench and Samuel Black. The 1844 assessment listed Hench and Black as owners of a tanyard, house and lot, a horse and carriage. Also in 1844,

The steam tannery of Messrs. Black & Hench, at Landisburg, Perry County, was completely destroyed by fire on Wednesday night of last week. The loss is estimated at from \$4000 to \$5000, of which \$3000 is covered by insurance. ⁷²

The tannery appears to have been rebuilt. In 1859, it was sold to James A. Diven's son William Bleakley Diven [*James Alexander, Alexander, James, Alexander*]. In 1867, it sold to James Murray (our great-grand-uncle, brother of William Murray). In 1870, it became the property of the Perry County Bank, was later sold to R. H. Middleton & Co., finally to Peter A. Ahl & Co, who owned a large tanning operation in Henry's Valley.⁷³ Middleton is listed in the 1877 county assessment as being the owner of a steam tanyard, bark shed and 3 lots. When Ahl owned the tannery, it was run by Peter Zerfing. Zerfing's obituary cites him as superintendent of the Landisburg Tannery until it was abandoned. ⁷⁴

⁷¹ Dennis Hocker, "Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park", Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 96.

⁷² Public Ledger. Philadelphia, PA. April 20 1844. p.2. accessed at newspapers.com.

⁷³ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. p. 980-1.

⁷⁴ Altoona Tribune, 10 June 1940. p. 4.

In 1831, another tannery was erected upon lot No. 1 by **James Diven**. Upon his death in 1840, the tannery passed to Parkinson Hench and Samuel Black, who were in possession until 1859, when **William B. Diven**, a son of the former owner, purchased it. In 1867, he sold to **James Murray** who operated it until 1870.....⁷⁵

The "Old Tannery", as it has been called of late – a landmark in our town for over half century—where fortunes have been made and fortunes lost, has now been torn down by its last purchaser. It was built by **James Diven** in the years 1831-32. He had **previously carried on the tanning business as a renter** in the old tannery now owned by David Moffat & Co., of New York City. In the year 1840 **James Diven** commenced enlarging his yard and purchased in Pittsburg[h] a steam engine and boiler, which he brought to the yard, but before it was put to its place he took sick, and after a short illness died.⁷⁶

A Valuable and Extensive Tannery, Late the property of **James Diven**, deceased, situate in the borough of Landisburg, Perry county, (14 miles northwest from the Cumberland Valley Railroad at Carlisle, and 15 miles southwest of the Juniata Canal at Newport) containing Fifty Vats, with the necessary Leeches, Limes, Bates, Pools and cistern, connected by pipes, two Barkmills, Roller, Hidemills and a new steam apparatus of seven horse power, in a suitable building under roof, read to attach Bark Mills and other machinery-and there is also a large and substantial Frame Building, two stories high, including Dry house, Currying and Beam shop, with 20 Handlers on the reeling system. There is a good supply of running water. On the yard are all necessary buildings, comprising Miss House, Bark houses, Leather house, &c. &c.; and also a good Frame Stable. There is an inexhaustible supply of Bark in the neighborhood. Of the Estate of **James Diven**, dec'd.⁷⁷

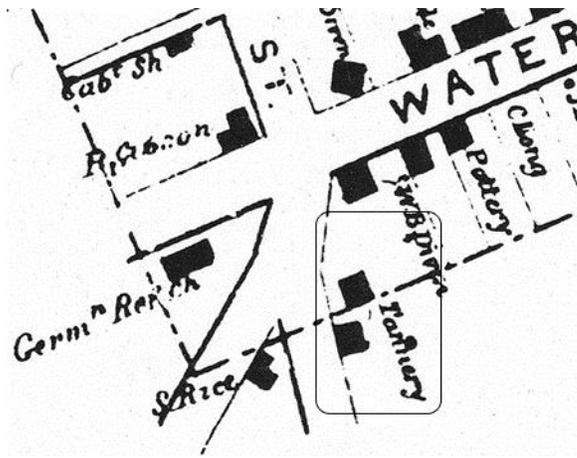
Tanning was an industry in that neighborhood almost from the earliest history. Around sixty to seventy-five years ago we had two large tanneries in the Borough of Landisburg devoted largely to the tanning of heavy leather products, but they also did some tanning of light-weight hides such as calf, sheep and dog skins. In my boyhood the extensive tannery in Landisburg under the capable management of Mr. Peter Zerfing was a veritable bee-hive of industry all the year 'round, which gave steady employment to a number of local men and afforded a market for the valuable bark products obtained from the extensive forest nearby. In season, all roads from the bark producing forests led to the tanneries and it was a most interesting sight to witness the incoming of the bark-laden heavy wagons and the weighing, unloading and storing of the bark. The water from the large, never-failing spring in Landisburg, commonly known as the Town Spring, was peculiarly adapted for use in the tanning process; with the result that, combined with high grade workmanship, a superior quality of heavy leather was produced, which found a ready market in the large centers of manufacturing activities.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922. page 977

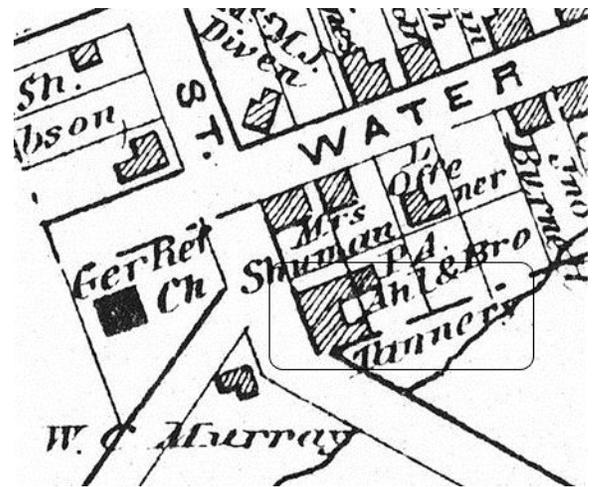
⁷⁶ Advocate & Press, Feb. 13, 1889.

⁷⁷ Public Sale Clipping, Adams Sentinel. 7 Dec. 1840

⁷⁸ Scholl, T. J. "Early Landisburg: Presentation to the Perry County Historical Society, August 24, 1939." The Record, August 24, 1939.



Tannery on Lot #1 Landisburg PA
 owned by W. B. Diven
 Map of the counties of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin
 Pennsylvania, 1863.



Tannery on creek-side half of Lot #1
 owned by Ahl and Co
 Atlas of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties,
 Pennsylvania, 1877

It would have been either tannery #2 or #3 which was cited in 1885 as, “the James Diven tannery in Landisburg, which is in good condition but idle”⁷⁹. Neither facility was in the hands of the Divens by that time.

Tannery #4: In Kennedy’s Valley, Colonel William Graham, in 1842, erected a tannery and operated it until 1849, when he sold it to James Linn Diven and John Linn Diven [*John, James, Alexander*] -- brothers. They operated it until 1867, when it went back to William Graham. It was shut down in 1872.

In Kennedy’s Valley,...Colonel William Graham, in 1842, erected a tannery....and operated it until 1849 when he sold it to **James L. and John L. Diven** [brothers]. They operated it until 1867.....⁸⁰

About two and a half miles from the mouth of McCabe’s Run, in Kennedy’s Valley, Colonel William Graham, in 1842 , erected a tannery on land formerly Abram Waggoner’s. He conducted business until 1849, and sold it to James L. and John L. Diven, who operated until 1858, when they conveyed to Solomon and Joseph Dewalt, who ran it until 1867, when it again came into the possession of Colonel William Graham, who continued business there until 1872, when it was abandoned.⁸¹

⁷⁹ “Disappearance of Tanneries”, Advocate and Press (newspaper), May 6, 1885.
 Reprinted in The Perry Historians Airy View, Volume 36, No. 4, July 2011.

⁸⁰ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922. page 1072

⁸¹ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886.
 Page 970

The Decennial Manufacturer's Census of 1860 lists Joseph Dewalt as Operator of this tannery. The Capital Appraisal of the property was \$4,800, with 800 Dry Spanish hides valued at \$6,000. The tannery was powered by Horse and Water. They employed three employees, earning a total of \$16.00 per month. The Annual Product was 1600 sides of sole leather valued at \$8000. ⁸²

Complicated, yes? We loved the one article which read simply:

Several James Divens were associated with early businesses in Landisburg ⁸³

What is clear is that generations of Divens -- some of whom had the same birth year and many of whom had the same given names and middle initials -- operated tanneries in or near Landisburg from as early as 1755 (or as soon as people returned after the Indian "problem" had abated) through 1872.

And some Divens became quite wealthy from the tanning business. The goods and chattels inventory of James Alexander Diven [*Alexander, James, Alexander*] totaled \$15,727 when he died in 1840.

Back to our Diven generations.....

James and Margaret Nancy Waddell Diven did their part in producing Divens:

- James (1765-1809 or a few years later ⁸⁴) married Nancy Parkison/Parkinson and had 4 children in Tyrone Twp, only two of whom [Richard and James Alexander] appear to have married and had families of their own.
- Alexander (1768-1809) married Elizabeth ?? and had one child in Tyrone before moving to Bellefonte where the couple had another child, and then he died in 1809 (OPD). We have few records for this man or his wife. His son James Alexander Diven became a tanner in Landisburg and his daughter, Sarah J. Diven married Joseph Walters Williamson and in later life lived in Landisburg with the *other* James A. Divens, her daughter and son-in-law.

⁸² Personal correspondence, Jean Tuzinski

⁸³ The Landisburg Area in the 1790's, The Perry Review, Volume 18-19, 1993-1994. The Perry Historians.

⁸⁴ James Jr. was said to have died 1809, but he and his father apparently bought land in 1811. In 1814, however, the survey says "heirs of James Diven Jr.". On 9 Feb 1819, Nancy Diven, Mother of John, Alexander, Richard, and Sarah Diven, minor children of James Diven the younger, late of Tyrone twp, deceased came to orphan's Court to have guardians named for the children. Petitioner's husband James Diven lately died leaving all his above named children minors under 14 without guardians over their persons and estates. John and Joseph Diven were appointed guardians. (Cumberland County Orphans Court, 1818-1825, vol 7, page 118). The children (John, Alexander, Richard, and Sarah) were said to have been born between 1800 and 1809. Very confusing and not a tangle we care to unravel. Suffice it to say that James, Jr died somewhere between 1809 and 1814.

- Margaret (1777-1830) who married Samuel Ross and had ELEVEN little Rosses, relocating to NY State. See our Ancestry tree or the “Descendants of Alexander Diven and Margaret Smith”, on our website, <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa’s Ancestry tab) for more about this clan.
- John (1778-1839), the next generation we will detail, below
- Joseph (1788 – 1873) who married Nancy Elizabeth Hunter and had at least 8 children, relocating to Indiana Co, PA about 1830.
- Ann (1790 – bet 1850-1860). We found no records for this woman, other than census records, nor a burial record. She appears not to have married.
- William (bet 1781 and 1790 – 1846) We have been contacted by a Diven who believes this William is his ancestor based on a family bible which has proven very accurate in other regards: This William was born earlier than our OPD record of 1792, and married Ann who died in 1827. He relocated to Highland Co, Ohio by 1830, with his young son James and died there in 1846. Time will tell if this is true. But the time frame fits this son of James who sold some of the last of James’ land in 1828.
- Mary (?? - ??) who married John Baxter/Baxtor, according to James’ will (see below). We have not yet been able to locate any records for this woman/couple.

James may also have fathered a mulatto child about 1802 who took the name James Diven, a clue to the identity of the father ⁸⁵. Diven, or “Pad” was owned by the Linn family, the Rev. John Linn, then his son Andrew ⁸⁶:

Slaveholder Name Linn, Andrew

City or Township Toboyne Township

Slave Name James Diven, a.k.a. Pad or Paddy

Slave Notes Apparently the former property of Rev. Linn, and sold as part of Linn's estate in 1826.

Rnaway ad from the Perry Forester:

"Six Cents Reward. Ran away from the subscriber, living in Toboyne Township Perry County, on the

⁸⁵ Janet Grindall Taylor, “African Americans in Perry County 1820- 1925”, The perry Historians, 2011. Janet told us that: “After Rev. Linn’s death Pad ran away and executors filed a notice in the newspapers (Sort of protection for them as owner) and offered a 6 cent reward. That’s a coded message meaning we really don’t want this guy back and don’t expect a reward from us.”

⁸⁶ Sources:

Registrations of Children of Slaves, "Slave Returns Listings" in "Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Board of County Commissioners--Returns for Negro and Mulatto Slaves, 1780-81, 1788-1811, 1813-21, 1824-26, 1833."

History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Rev. Conway P. Wing. James D. Scott, Co., Philadelphia, 1879; Repr. 1982 by the Cumberland County Historical Society and Hamilton Library

History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922; pages 534-539.

And

<http://www.afrolumens.org/slavery/cumbjm.html>

second of June inst., an indented Mulatto Man, aged about 22 years; who calls himself James Diven, but is better known by the name of Pad. He had on, when he ran off, a brown underjacket, tow check pantaloons, and half-worn roram hat. Whoever takes up said runaway and returns him to the subscriber, shall have the above reward, but no other charges will be allowed. ANDREW LINN.
Toboyne Township, June 22, 1826."

Date of Record June 22, 1826

Two of James and Margaret's sons (James, Jr. and Alexander) were already deceased when James died. We have seen that their son James and heirs had been provided for with 150 acres elsewhere in the county. On May 19, 1818 and proven June 11, 1818⁸⁷, James made his last will and testament, asking his executors to sell his lands. The will was definitely that of a prosperous businessman and bestowed:

- 1/3 of personal estate, 1/3 of rents and profits from real estate to beloved wife Margaret; she was to reside in the house "where I now live". \$50 per year from tan yard profits. If she and the heirs were to decide to sell the land before she died, then that was OK too;
- £ 400 to William from real estate sale;
- £ 200 to daughter Margaret, wife of Samuel Ross, from real estate sale (£ 10 per year);
- £ 200 to son John from real estate sale;
- £ 250 to daughter Ann from real estate sale, one horse, saddle bridle, bed and bedding;
- the tan yard and all appurtenances, also house and stabling yard now in his occupancy, and all land occupied by and enclosed with tan yard to son Joseph. He was to use the tan yard profits to pay his mother \$50 per year;
- £ 100 to daughter Mary, wife of John Baxtor, from real estate sale;
- £ 5 to son-in-law Samuel Ross;
- £75 to granddaughter Margaret Brewster (daughter of Ann) from real estate sale;
- \$150 to grandson James Diven (son of Alexander, deceased) from real estate sale;
- \$150 to granddaughter Sarah Williamson (daughter of Alexander) from real estate;
- share in Carlisle & Hanover turnpike⁸⁸ to grandson Alexander Ross;
- \$60 each from real estate sales "to all the children of daughter Margaret Ross";
- \$50 "each" from real estate sales to children of son James Diven deceased;
- half of 150 A of land to grandchildren James Diven, Sarah Williamson, (son and daughter of Alexander);

⁸⁷ Cumberland Co PA, Will Book I, 1817-1827, pages 75-76

⁸⁸ 20-mile thoroughfare through Hanover, York, Gettysburg, and Chambersburg. "The road is one of the most historic in Pennsylvania, having been surveyed from Washington to Harrisburg by George Washington as an original post road."

Yearbook of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, 1916, page 123.

http://books.google.com/books?id=a7ITAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PA123&lpg=RA2-PA123&dq=%22carlisle-hanover+turnpike%22&source=bl&ots=cx9JqwNlvd&sig=G4a1UQDu_m9xskNt07EtRYBXG8E&hl=en&sa=X&ei=gQoHV0yclNa3yASR64LoBA&ved=0CD0Q6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22carlisle-hanover%20turnpike%22&f=false

- If son William were to die without issue, divide what is his legacy among all herein named heirs;
- William will farm land and give 1/2 grain to mother Margaret;
- All remaining property be evenly divided among all heirs herein named.

Clearly, James was considered a wealthy man, at least in the value he ascribed to his real estate holdings (over £1200 and \$700+). In 1821, sons John and Joseph, his executors, advertised the tanyard. In 1822, they sold 47+ acres of Alexander's original tract to brother William Diven in 1822 and a month or so later, sold the remaining 153 of those acres, as well as the "Messnage" (= house or cottage) to William McClure⁸⁹ for \$3524⁹⁰ who sold it to Joseph Diven in 1823. In 1828, William Diven sold his 47 acres to William McClure who then re-sold them to Joseph Diven in 1830 for \$700⁹¹. Maybe then, Joseph sold all of his acreage later in 1830 when he relocated to Indiana Co, PA?

In 1830 the property was sold to Danile Spotts and was owned by his son in the 1880s. The mansion farm was left to his wife who died in 1832, then sold to Jonathan Dunkelberger and next Abraham Wertz.... Township maps show the Diven property adjacent to that of the Dunkelbergers...⁹²

There was probably a reasonable explanation for all the buying and selling but at this distance, we cannot say exactly what it might have been!

We also do not know the burial place for James or Margaret. They are not listed among the graves at Centre Presbyterian Church Cemetery, although that would have been a logical place for their interment. There might also have been a family graveyard on the Spring/Carroll Twp. property.

⁸⁹ Probably related to their Uncle Joseph Diven's (1755-1830) wife Elizabeth Catherine McClure (1760 – 1830), who may have been the daughter of a William McClure.

⁹⁰ Perry County, Deed Book A, pages 276-277.

⁹¹ Perry County, Deed Book D, page 64.

⁹² Jean Hohenshilt Tuzinski, Tanneries of Perry County: Spring Township, Perry Historians Newsletter, May 2015, pages 6-7 and May 2016, pages 4-5.

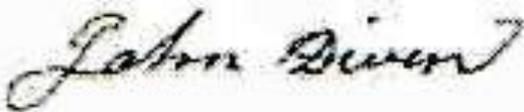
- **John Diven** (b. 1778 Spring Twp, Cumberland, PA – d. 1839 Landisburg, Perry Co.) married **Anna Jane Linn** (1787-1838) in November 1817 Bellefonte, Centre Co, PA.

Records indicate John was born in what would become Spring Twp, perhaps on the same property we have shown in the maps above, owned by Alexander and James, his grandfather and father. John was one of his father's executors but did not end up with any of the original patent lands.

A newspaper clipping seen at the Lenig Library of the Perry Historians said that John was living in Chambersburg PA in 1812. However, the *Advocate and Press* newspaper in October 1889⁹³ published a description of a Landisburg home built by John Diven "in 1812 or 1814 for Wm. Power, grandfather of Major Wm. Power". The article goes on to list all the families who had lived in the house; as Diven did not occupy the house at any time, we are led to wonder if building was John's occupation at this point in his life.

The year before his marriage, 1816, John moved to Landisburg⁹⁴, where he became an elder of the Landisburg Presbyterian Church⁹⁵ and trustee of the school there. He married Anna Jane Linn (1787-1838) in November 1817 in Bellefonte, Centre Co, PA. The marriage service was conducted by Rev. James Linn, Anna's brother, the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Bellefonte. (It is interesting that it was NOT performed by her father who was still living and serving as pastor in nearby Madison Twp!)

In 1820, John pledged \$30⁹⁶ to the subscription of moneys raised to show the Governor that county buildings could be supported by townfolk if he placed the (newly formed Perry) county seat in Landisburg. (The governor did not do so.) In the federal census of 1830, the couple lived 7 houses away from Samuel Linn (another of Anna's brothers) in Landisburg.



John was one of the signatories on a letter to the town of Landisburg, requesting funds to repair the fire engine. October 3, 1833⁹⁷

⁹³ Reprinted in the Perry Review, Volume 31, 2010. The Perry Historians.

⁹⁴ <http://awtc.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=kl2u&id=11309>

⁹⁵ Built in 1830 and used until 1920, after which it was used as a school and then the fire hall; it was torn down in the 1980's. Before 1830, the Presbyterian congregation had met in the courthouse. According to Dennis Hocker, "Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park", Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Pages 98 and 113.

⁹⁶ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Page 896

⁹⁷ This letter was published in Dennis Hocker, "Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park", Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 115

The couple had four children that we know of (more about them below):

- James Linn Diven (1819 – 1901). Our great-great-grandfather.
- Mary Gettys Diven (1821 – 1834)
- Anna Belle Diven (1825 – 1897)
- John Linn Diven (1827 – 1872)
- But in the 1830 census, there was another free white male under 5 in the household, not accounted for by these 4 known children. Was there another son whose name we do not know? If so, there is no record of him in the Centre Presbyterian graveyard where other members were buried.

John Diven was also a slaveholder in 1830. Janet Taylor told us: As far as I could find, the only “slave-owning” Diven was John in Landisburg in 1830. The slave was female, age 55-99.⁹⁸ It is possible that this was the mulatto “girl” whom Rev. John Linn left to his wife in 1820; Mary Gettys Linn (Anna’s mother) left most of her estate to her children to “share and share alike” when she died in 1823. So this mulatto “girl” may have been inherited by Anna Jane Linn Diven. It is conceivable that this was Rachael, who was already an adult when registered by the Linns in 1795⁹⁹. Both Divens were dead by the time the 1840 census was collected, so how this family story played out is unknown.

In 1834, John and Anna Jane moved to a farm and mill, just south of Alinda in Spring Twp, Perry Co. This property adjoined that of John Junkin, and was very near that purchased by John’s father James Diven for his other son James. (Owned by John’s nephew John P. Diven in the 1863 atlas of the county.) We do not think that this was part of the same 150 acre parcel that James, Sr and James Jr bought in 1811. The mill had been built about 1801 and changed hands several times before being bought by John Diven.¹⁰⁰

The best description we have of John’s land holdings came from a petition to the Orphan’s Court in 1840 describing John’s two tracts in Tyrone Twp: 20 acres unimproved land, adjoining lands of heirs of William Power, heirs of Abraham Fulwiler, and Joseph Wilson

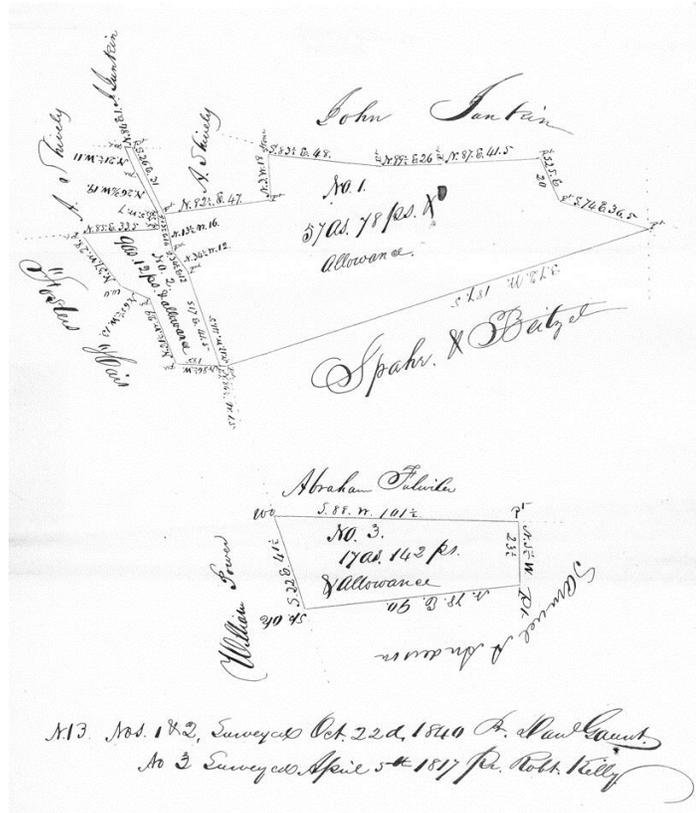
⁹⁸ 1830 United States Federal Census.

The Gradual Emancipation Act of 1780 of the Pennsylvania legislature was meant to end slavery in stages. The act provided for the registration of every Negro or mulatto slave or servant for life before November 1780. Those born outside of PA were freed on that date; PA-born slaves were to be freed at age 28. The slave ... would properly have been described as an indentured servant if she had been born after 1780. But age 55+ means she was born before 1776.

⁹⁹ Registrations of Children of Slaves, "Slave Returns Listings" in "Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Board of County Commissioners--Returns for Negro and Mulatto Slaves, 1780-81, 1788-1811, 1813-21, 1824-26, 1833."

¹⁰⁰ The mill was built about 1801 and changed hands several times before being bought by John Diven, whose “administrator passed the title to Christian Thudium in 1851.” Eugene Eby, Perry County Grist Mills, 1762-1978. Pages 214-215.

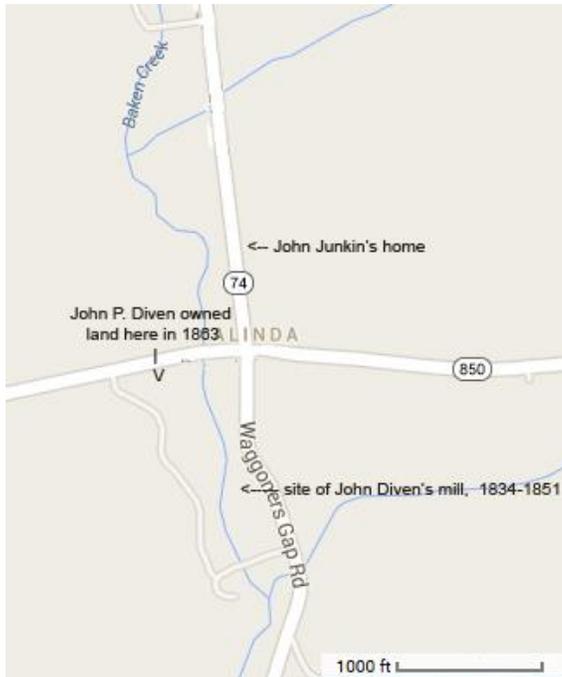
(possibly a wood lot, location unknown to us); the other 60 acres on which John had a grist mill, a frame house, a log barn, and a tenant house, adjacent to lands owned by heirs of William Foster, Judge Junkin, Beitzel, and Shively. So this 60-acre parcel did not adjoin the other Alinda Diven property.



1840 surveys of the properties owned by John Diven (1778 – 1839).

Diven’s mill was described as being 200 yards south of Alinda, along the present Route 74. The water to power the mill came from Baker’s Run from a race which extended nearly to Alinda. The mill was built about 1801 and had changed hands several times before being bought by Diven in 1834. Some years after his death, Diven’s “administrator passed the title to Christian Thudium in 1851”. The mill was torn down in the 1940’s. Only a few stones from the foundation are still scattered around. ¹⁰¹

¹⁰¹ Eugene Eby, Perry County Grist Mills, 1762-1978. 1978. Triangle Press, Inc. Harriburg, PA. Pages 212-216



Alinda, Spring Township, Perry Co., PA.
(Google maps, 2014)



Old stone foundation on the house still standing on John Diven mill property.
Probably the same house that the Divens lived in.
(Photo by author, 2014, taken with permission of owners.)



Probably John Diven's house and what remains of Baker Creek which powered the three-story wood and stone mill.
The mill had what was once one of the largest wheels in the county.¹⁰²
(Photo by author, 2014, taken with permission of owners.)

¹⁰² Eugene Eby, Perry County Grist Mills, 1762-1978. 1978. Triangle Press, Inc. Harrisburg, PA. Pages 212-216

John Diven died young and intestate in 1839, less than a year after his wife died, leaving orphans James Linn Diven and two minor children (daughter Mary Gettys Diven had died in 1834 ¹⁰³).

Later that year, James Linn Diven, Andrew Linn (young John's uncle and guardian) and Henry Fetter (young Anna Belle's guardian and future father-in-law) appeared in Orphan's Court again, at which time it appears that the land parcels had been divided and were to be sold. James Linn Diven's biography indicates he bought the farm (perhaps partially with money inherited by his wife Elizabeth Junkin from her great-aunt Agnes Junkin – see below), although he did not live there long. He apparently did not sell it, however, until 1851. ¹⁰⁴

John and Anna Jane Diven's daughter Anna Belle (1823 – 1897) married William Fetter, the son of her guardian in 1845 and had 6 children. Both Anna and William were buried in Landisburg Cemetery.

Married—
On Thursday last, by the Rev. John Dickey,
Mr. WILLIAM R. FETTER to Miss ANNA
BELLA DIVEN, both of the borough of Landisburg.

Perry County Democrat, 20-Feb-1845 edition (Perry County Historical Society records)

Son John Linn Diven (1827 – 1872) went into the tannery business with his brother James Linn Diven, as we have seen. He married Mary Jane Niblock ¹⁰⁵ in 1848, although she was not listed in the census record we located for him in 1850 (in which he was listed as a tanner and living with his brother and family). There appear to have been no children born to the couple.

¹⁰³ She was buried at Centre Presbyterian Cemetery but we were unable to locate her gravestone.

¹⁰⁴ Eugene Eby, Perry County Grist Mills, 1762-1978. 1978. Triangle Press, Inc. Harriburg, PA. Pages 212-216

¹⁰⁵ Mary Jane was the daughter of Rev. John Niblock, who died when she was 2 years old. Mother's name unknown. She was "adopted" by William Niblock and wife Ann Hackness Niblock. We believe William to have been a brother of John's based on their ages. Both John Niblock and Wm Niblock had daughters named Mary Jane, almost the same age. This was clarified, however, by the will of Caroline Niblock (daughter of Wm), in which she clearly spelled out that MJ Niblock Green was her sister and MJ Niblock Diven was her "aunt". We are not sure which Mary Jane censused with Wm and family in 1850. MJ Niblock Diven did not census with her husband in 1850, but MJ Niblock Green did not marry James Green until 1856.

MARRIED,
 In Landisburg, on the 9th inst., by the Rev.
 H. Leimbach, Mr. JOHN L. DIVEN, to Miss MARY
 JANE, daughter of the late Rev. John Niblock.

Perry County Democrat, 18-Apr-1850
 edition. (Perry County Historical Society
 records)



The couple's graves are side-by-side in Landisburg Cemetery. "Mary Jane Niblock" is inscribed almost illegibly, along the band at the top of her stone, right. (Photos by author, 2014)

Mary Jane died in May 1860, after which the federal census of 1860 found John L. living with his cousin William B. Diven in Landisburg ¹⁰⁶. He then remarried to Emily E. Kennedy, soon after, also supposedly in 1860. John had two children with his second wife, Harry and Mary Linn Diven, who censused with him (occupations: tanner and currier) and Emily in 1870 in Landisburg. John Linn Diven, who died in 1872, and his first wife were buried in Landisburg Cemetery. Emily remarried to John Fleisher in 1886 and lived until 1924; she and John Fleisher were interred in Carlisle at Westminster Memorial Gardens, as was daughter Mary Linn Diven ¹⁰⁷.

Our ancestor John Diven died in 1839; his wife Anna Jane Linn Diven preceded him by a year. Both were buried at Centre Presbyterian Church Cemetery, along with daughter Mary Gettys, who died before them. ¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁶ John L. Diven living with William B. and his mother in 1860, then being listed as a farmer is confusing. We think John L. may have owned tannery #1 at that time – but then maybe not? John Linn Diven, his brother James Linn Diven, William B. Diven and other cousins owned and sold one another several tanneries in Landisburg. At this time William B. owned tannery #2.

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=131796532&ref=acom>

¹⁰⁸ She was buried at Centre Presbyterian Cemetery but we were unable to locate her gravestone.



Gravestones of John Diven, left (1778 –1839) and Anna Jane Linn Diven, right (1787-1838)
Cemetery of Centre Presbyterian Church, Perry Co, PA (Photos by the author, 2010)

- **James Linn Diven (1819-1901)**

James Linn Diven's first wife was **Elizabeth Junkin** (b. 1819 Cumberland Co, PA – 1847 New Bloomfield, Perry, PA). They married September 26, 1839 when she was 21, bought the farm James' parents had owned, perhaps partially with the money Elizabeth's great-aunt Agnes Junkin had left her. For more information on the Junkins, please see <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab).

Married —
On the 26th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Dukey,
Mr. JAMES L. DIVEN, to Miss ELIZA-
BETH JUNKIN, daughter of the John
Junkin, Esq. of Tyrone township.

Perry County Democrat, 10-Oct-1839 edition (Perry County Historical Society records)

The couple had four daughters who lived to adulthood, before Elizabeth died in 1847:

- Anna M. Diven (1840 - aft 1910). Probably named for her two grandmothers, Anna Jane Linn Diven and Maria Adams Junkin, although we cannot confirm her middle name. Married George Stoop and had one daughter, Elizabeth; we have a bit more basic information on Anna many pages on....
- Sarah Elizabeth Belgium Diven (Feb 1843 – 1894). May have been named for her aunt Sarah Junkin and her mother. Did not marry, buried in Landisburg Cemetery (stone says "Sarah Bell Diven");
- Jane McClure Diven (Dec 1843 – 1881). May have been named for her grandmother Anna Jane Linn. Did not marry, buried in Landisburg Cemetery;

- Emma J. Diven (1846 – 1905), our great-grandmother. More on Emma further on...



Jane McClure Diven's and Sarah Belle Diven's gravestone, Landisburg Cemetery

(photo by author, 2014)



Anna M. Diven (left) and Emma J. Diven (right)

Elizabeth died in 1847, and was buried at Centre Presbyterian Church Cemetery.



Gravestone of Elizabeth Junkin
Diven
(1818 – 1847),
1st wife of James Linn Diven
Cemetery of Centre
Presbyterian Church, Perry Co,
PA

(Photo by author, 2010)

Two years after Elizabeth died, James Linn Diven married **Mary Rebecca Irvine (1828 – 1856)**, with whom he had two sons:

- Robert Irvine Diven (1850 – 1882) married Mary Eaton in 1877 and had 3 children, two of whom died very young (within a day of each other in 1880). Robert followed them less than 2 years later. Another (Helen C. Diven, wife of Edwin H. Blessing 1881-1963) lived a long life. All, except the longer-lived daughter, were buried in Landisburg Cemetery;
- William Henry Diven (1851 – 1855). Buried Landisburg Cemetery.

Mary Rebecca died in 1856 and was buried at Centre Presbyterian Cemetery.

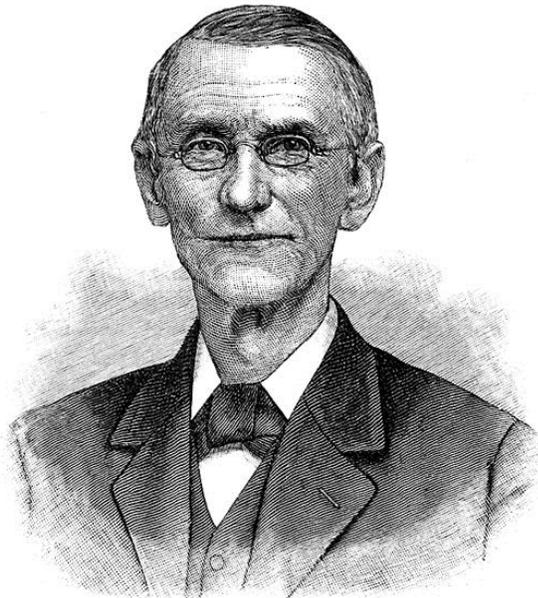
James married a third time (1858) to **Margaret J. Black (1828 – 1894)**, who gave him 3 sons:

- John Anthony Diven (1859 – 1861). Buried Landisburg Cemetery.
- James Linn Diven (1862 – 1931). After boarding for some years with her family in New Bloomfield, Perry, James L. married Anne Rhinesmith between 1910 and 1920. They seem to have no children and she lived at least until 1940 when the census found her, still in New Bloomfield, living with a nephew. Both were buried in New Bloomfield Cemetery.

- Edward Black Diven (1867 – 1925). Like his brother, married late in life, to Elsie Butler (1879-1963), between 1910 and 1920. In 1924, the US City Directory for Harrisburg, PA listed Edward as working in the State Dept. of Internal Affairs. Elsie was still alive in 1936 in Harrisburg where she was a teacher. No children. The couple was buried in the Butler plot at Harrisburg Cemetery.

One thing is clear. James Linn Diven had 9 children, only three of whom gave him grandchildren who lived to maturity: his daughters Anna M. Diven Stroop and Emma J. Diven Murray, daughters of his first marriage to Elizabeth Junkin; and Robert Irvine Diven, son by his second wife. Both these daughters, and two sons James Linn Diven and Edward Black Diven were the only children to outlive him. He was a man well acquainted with grief.

Here is biography and etching of him:



James L. Diven

James L. Diven is the grandson of James Diven, who was of Scotch-Irish descent, and removed, prior to the War of the Revolution, from York County, PA, to Cumberland (now Perry) County, in the same state, where he was an industrious farmer. He married a Miss Waddell, whose children are Alexander, James, John, William, Joseph and five daughters. John was born in Spring Township, Perry County, about the year 1778, and in 1816 removed to Landisburg, where he married Annie, daughter of Rev. John Linn. The children of this marriage are James L., born May 29, 1819; Mary G., February 7, 1821, who died June 23, 1834; Anna B., wife of William R. Fetter, September 5, 1825; John L. April 18, 1827. The death of Mrs. Diven occurred July 26, 1838, and that of Mr. Diven May 2, 1839. Their son, James L., was born in Landisburg, Perry County, as were all the children, and at the age of fifteen, removed with his parent to a farm in Spring Township, where he became familiar with the routine of farm labor, and on the death of his father acquired by purchase the property. Having, in 1841, abandoned farming, the

following year he came to Landisburg and engaged in mercantile pursuits. In 1846, having relinquished business, he, in 1847, removed to Kennedy's Valley and embarked in the tanning business. He was in 1851 elected prothonotary of the county, and made New Bloomfield his residence, serving in that capacity two terms of three years each, meanwhile retaining his interest in the tannery in conjunction with his brother, John L. Diven. In 1858, Mr. Diven returned to Landisburg, and disposing of his share in the tannery, engaged again in mercantile pursuits, which have since that date occupied his attention. He was, on the 26th of September, 1839, married to Elizabeth, daughter of Hon. John Junkin, whose children are Anna M. (Mrs. George Stroop), Sarah B., Jane McClure (deceased), and Emma (Mrs. William Murray). Mrs. Diven died June 28, 1847, and he was again married, November 20, 1849, to Mary, daughter of Robert Irvin – Robert I. and William H. The death of Mrs. Diven occurred February 28, 1856, and October 25, 1858, he married Margaret J., daughter of Anthony Black. Their children are John A. (deceased), James L., and Edward B. A republican in politics, Mr. Diven is not a partisan nor a worker in the political field. His ability and integrity have made his services desirable as guardian and administrator, in which capacity he has often acted. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church at Landisburg, as was his father. ¹⁰⁹

Based on the above, the tannery records, and newspaper articles in the collection of the Perry Historical Society, here's run-down of his life:

- 1819 born in Landisburg;
- 1834 moved with parents to a farm/mill they bought there, just south of Alinda
- 1838 his mother died
- 1839 (May 2) his father died
- 1839 (September 26) James Linn Diven married Elizabeth Junkin
- 1840 bought the farm/mill from his parents' estate
- 1840 possibly bought tannery #2 (above), from his cousin's estate
- 1841 "abandoned" farming, moved to Landisburg, became a merchant (the mill was not sold until 1851, so perhaps he rented it ¹¹⁰)
- 1846 was county auditor
- 1847 first wife died
- 1847 (or 1849) moved to Kennedy's Valley and began tanning. Bought tannery #4 with his brother John.
- 1849 married Mary Irvine
- 1851 sold the Alinda mill to Christian Thudium
- 1851 – 1857 served as prothonotary (clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Court of Quarter Sessions, Court of Oyer and Terminer ¹¹¹, and the Orphans' Court) -- and moved to New Bloomfield, Perry, PA

¹⁰⁹ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Page 979-980.

¹¹⁰ The mill was built about 1801 and changed hands several times before being bought by John Diven, whose "administrator passed the title to Christian Thudium in 1851." Eugene Eby, Perry County Grist Mills, 1762-1978. Pages 214-215.

¹¹¹ Oyer and terminer is a term originating in English law for one of the commissions by which a judge of assize sat used for the extraordinary prosecution of criminal offences, particularly those of a serious nature. The term derives from Law French, meaning to hear and determine and was also known as audiendo et terminando. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oyer_and_terminer

- 1853 sold tannery #2 to brother John
- 1853-58 elder of the New Bloomfield Presbyterian Church
- 1856 second wife died
- 1858 returned to Landisburg and opened store,
- 1858 James L. and John L. sold tannery #4; married Margaret Black.
- 1889 president of Republican County Convention and delegate from Landisburg
- 1890 until ?? superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School
- 1894 third wife died
- 1901 James Linn Diven died

A reminiscence of Landisburg, written in 1939 by elderly T. J. Scholl, mentions one interesting thing about James: his library.

Recreation, some, who see and understand life only as lived under the present day emotion-exciting, razzle-dazzle moral-lowering recreation standard, will ask how the people, old and young, found relief from the supposed monotony growing out of the restrictive environment in which they lived.....

In the first place, in nearly every home throughout that section were a number of books, standard works on history, biography, fiction, and adventure, which were eagerly read, discussed, and digested; and in a number of the more prominent and well-to-do homes extensive libraries were lodged and available to literary minds. I recall one home in particular, that of James L. Diven, whose son Edward was a constant and discriminating reader, and Ed was ever ready to loan books to those who took good care of them and returned them ;promptly. ¹¹²

In 1863, the Atlas map of Landisburg shows James Linn Diven owned half a building, Lot 160, shared with his sister and her husband William Fetter. Dennis Hocker also reported that Diven operated a store in this building, which had been built in about 1820 by Samuel A. Anderson, the husband of James' aunt, Mary Gettys Linn Anderson ¹¹³. Note the circled word "store".

¹¹² It is odd nowadays to reflect that the author found 1939's pace "the present day emotion-exciting, razzle-dazzle moral-lowering recreation standard." !! This document was reported in Dennis Hocker, "Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park", Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 148

¹¹³ Dennis Hocker, "Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park", Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 131



James Linn Diven may have had his store (word "store" circled by author) in half of the building at what is now Carlisle St. and Main St., Landisburg. Map of the counties of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Pennsylvania, 1863.



Carlisle and Main Sts, Landisburg, PA (photo by author)

In 1863, part of this building was owned by James Linn Diven. By 1877, it was the store and residence of W. H. Niblock. ¹¹⁴

James L. also owned another building at that time, purchased in 1859 ¹¹⁵, on Lot 43, at the corner of Main/Second and George Sts, perhaps his home and/or his store in the 1863

¹¹⁴ Wm. Niblock was the guardian of James Linn Diven's brothers John's wife. Her father, Rev. John Niblock, died Aug 11, 1830 in his 32rd year while pastor of Middle Ridge, Mouth of the Juniata, and Sherman's Creek Presbyterian congregations. (Perry Co, PA). His only daughter, Mary Jane was about 2 at the time. Dr. William Niblock (possibly a brother or close relative) was appointed her guardian on April 5, 1831.

¹¹⁵ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Page 981.

era. By the time the 1877 Atlas was published, James L. had moved his store to that building (along with D. L. Diven – not sure who this was ??) The building had been a store and a tavern in its history and was known as the “J. L. Diven Building” in 1886. In the late 20th century, it became McGowan’s store. ¹¹⁶ Dennis Hocker describes this building:

“Many people do not realize that the official town square is at the intersection of Main and George Streets. It is 84 feet square, although there is little indication of the square today. The northwest corner of the square has always been an important commercial center. In 1900 it was a tavern and store. During the country seat days it was a tavern owned by Thomas Craighead. It has also been a chair-making shop and a dry goods store. Most recently in the 20th century it was known as McGowan’s” Store.” ¹¹⁷



Left: Map of Landisburg, 1863, showing J.L. Diven’s probable home. Map of the counties of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Pennsylvania, 1863.

Right: Map of Landisburg, 1877, showing “JL & DL Diven store” on the NW corner of Main/Second and George Sts. Atlas of Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties, Pennsylvania, 1877

¹¹⁶ Clouse, A Walking Tour of Landisburg, The Perry Review (Perry Historians), vol 18-19, 1993-94. Pg 11.

¹¹⁷ Dennis Hocker, “Landisburg, Loysville, and Green Park”, Genesis Publishing, 2017, Perry Heritage Collection. Page 116



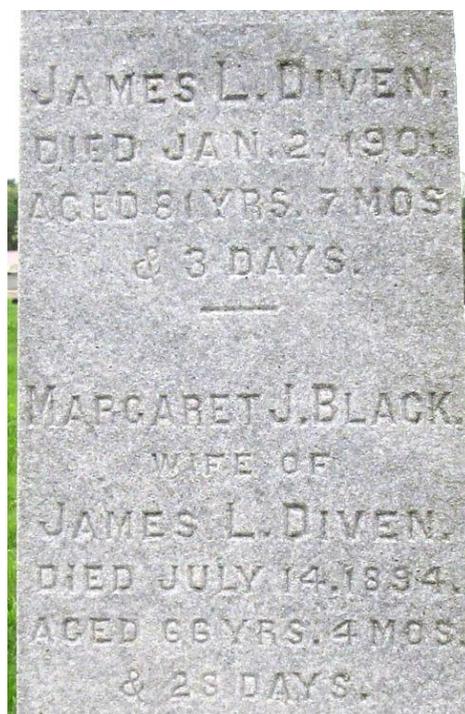
Landisburg, circa 1890-1900. The home and store of James Linn Diven (1819 – 1901). Many years later, about 1919 through 1949, Charles C. “Dick” Murray (1869-1956), grandson of Samuel Murray, also lived and had a store in this building. (photo courtesy of Elizabeth McClure Davenport)



Photograph of same building, Main St, Landisburg (Photo by author, 2010)

James Linn Diven ran his store in until his death in 1901. His will directed his heirs to sell all the merchandise in the store, as well as his personal property to be distributed according to the laws of the commonwealth. All his life insurance money, however, was to go to the two sons of his last marriage, James and Edward, “as if they were the only children I ever had”.

James survived his third wife by 7 years, and the two were buried at Landisburg Cemetery with many of their children and families.



James Linn Diven's Gravestone, Landisburg Cemetery. (Photos by author, 2011.)

- **Emma J. Diven** (1846-1905 Landisburg, Perry, PA) married **William C. Murray** (b. abt 1838 – 1900). Emma's mother died the year following her birth, so she knew only step-mothers: Mary Rebecca Irvine from 1848 to 1856, and then Margaret Black from her marriage in 1858 for over 30 years.

Emma may have been named for her mother's half-sister Emma Junkin, and it seems likely that the "J" was her mother's maiden name Junkin. She passed on the Junkin middle name to one of her daughters. Emma was a very intelligent woman, educated in the local public schools but also attended the Landisburg Academy, according to her obituary. She lived almost her entire life in Landisburg except for some early years in Bloomfield while her father was prothonotary there.

William Murray was described by censuses as a farmer (1860 and Civil War Draft Registration List in 1863 ¹¹⁸) and a butcher (1870). They married in 1869, probably at the Landisburg Presbyterian Church or in the home of her parents, and honeymooned at Niagara Falls.

¹¹⁸ No records indicate that he served in that conflict.

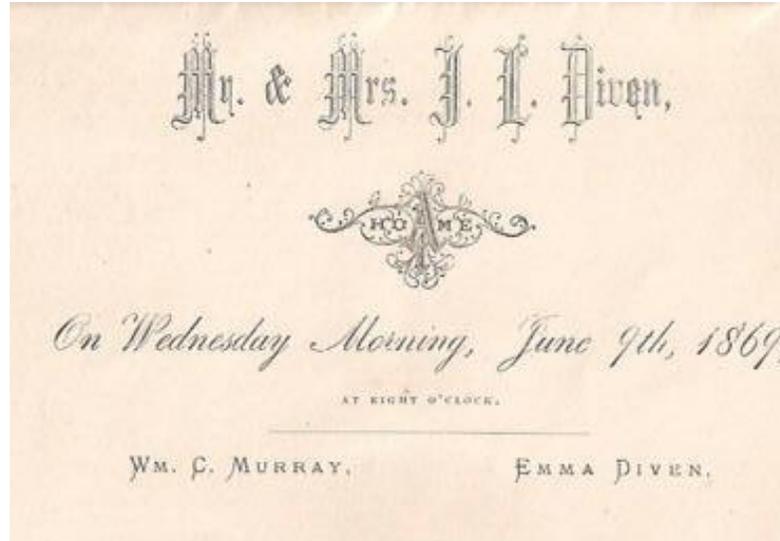
MARRIED:

On the 10th inst., in the Presbyterian church, in this borough, by the Rev. Robt. McPherson, Rev. H. K. McComb, Pastor of said church, to Miss Virginia B., daughter of Jas. B. Hackett, Esq., of this borough.

On the 9th inst., at Landisburg, by the same, Mr. William C. Murray, to Miss Emma, daughter of James L. Diven, Esq., all of Landisburg.

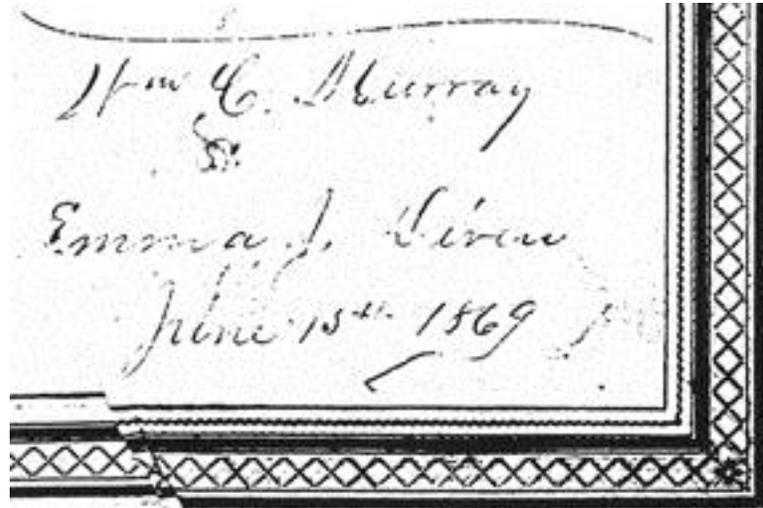
Perry County Democrat, 16-Jun-1869 edition (Perry County Historical Society records)

Since Emma's father was a merchant and business man in town, the elegant invitations (to the wedding? Or to a reception?) were engraved in Philadelphia.



Invitation to reception in honor of Wm. C. Murray and Emma Diven, 1869
(courtesy of Nancy Craven Henry)

William was a member of the International order of Odd Fellows' Mt. Dempsey Lodge in Landisburg, and the marriage was inscribed in the Lodge's bible. Probably the inscription happened on the 15th.



Mt. Dempsey Lodge, International Order of Odd Fellows Bible. This MAY be William's handwriting, because each entry in this book seem to be written in a different hand.
(Photo-copy in the Murray surname file at the Perry Historical Soc. Lenig Library)



Alabaster memento from Emma and William's honeymoon at Niagara Falls, NY. This unusual object shows two scenes from that place when the viewer looks through the top hole and turns the knobs.

We take up both Emma's and William's stories in the Murray chapter at www.MelissaCravenFowler.com (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab).

Emma's sister Anna M. Diven married George Stroop in 1873 and had one daughter Elizabeth "Bess" Stroop. Bess married Frank Chandler McClure, fondly known as "Uncle Paddy". In turn, Bess and Paddy had Elizabeth "Betty" McClure in 1905, Ann Diven

McClure in 1906, Nancy and Frank Chandler McClure (twins) in 1914. Emma's children remained close with their McClure cousins. Ruth Murray was found by the federal census of 1910 visiting with or living with her McClure cousins and they vacationed together (see photo below).

Both Stroops and McClures were long-standing Perry Co. families and neither was in our direct line. The name "George" was carried through generations of Stroops, and the genealogy of the McClure family is outside the scope of this research. The latter were early into central PA and the family had many lines of repeating given names. One McClure branch, however, had a lovely estate in Chambersburg which became the grounds of Wilson College. Nancy Manship followed her cousin Elizabeth "Betty" McClure to attend Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA. Also, Emma's and Anna's 1st cousin, Helen Junkin, also attended Wilson in 1896, as did another more distant Junkin cousin.

Here is a composite picture of Emma, Anna, their husbands and children (again, see the Murray chapter for more on the Murrays):



James Linn Diven



Emma Diven Murray



William Murray



Anna Diven Stroop



George Stroop



Sarah Lulu Belle (Belle) Murray



Elizabeth Junkin (Biz) Murray



Ruth Diven Murray



Mary Gettys Murray



James Linn Murray (Ted)



George Stroop (Stroup) Murray



Elizabeth Junkin (Bess) Stroop

James Linn Diven, two of his daughters by his first wife, their husbands, and children.

There were also family camping trips to Carlisle, one of which was caught by a photographer, circa 1918, below.



Camping at Bellaire Park, near Carlisle PA, circa 1918, legend below.
 (Photo courtesy of Elizabeth McClure Davenport)



Camping at Bellaire Park, near Carlisle PA, circa 1918, legend.

E. C. Dile and wife and John Saushman and wife and Miss Floy Rice autoed to Bellaire Park last Wednesday and spent the day with Misses Belle, Elizabeth and Ruth Murray, and Mrs. Mary Manship, of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Frank C. McClure, of Indiana, Pa., who are spending their vacation at their summer cottage in the park.

Perry County Democrat
September 7, 1921

- **Mary Gettys Murray** (1877-1948) married **Frank Alfred Manship** (1877-1915) in 1910. For more on Mary, see both the Murray chapter and the Manship chapter at www.MelissaCravenFowler.com (choose the Melissa's Ancestry tab).
- **Nancy Manship Craven** (1912 Denver CO -1991) married **Frank Tempest Craven** (1914-1962) in 1948.